FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 FEBRUARY 1984

Lebanon

Lebanese-Syrian Summit — President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived inDamascus and began a summit meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad Damascus radio reported. According to an announcement by Al-Jumayyil's office on 29 February, carried by Beirut radio, the talks will focus on "the entire Lebanese situation and the course Lebanon is to take to cancel the 17 May accord."

However, former President Camille Sham'un urged Al-Jumayyil not to visit Damascus "after Syria has ignored the simplest duties toward the Lebanese Government," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The 17 May agreement with Israel should not be unilaterally abrogated, Sham'un asserted, and the Syrians and their foreign associates should first withdraw from all Lebanese territory. He warned that if Al-Jumayyil disregards this advice, he will withdraw support for the government and refuse to participate in any government or dialogue conference. Phalangist military commander Fadi Afram likewise condemned abrogation of the 17 May agreement as "capitulation to Syria" and stressed the need to ratify the agreement with Israel, the radio noted. On the other hand, Syrian radio and press commentaries, broadcast by Damascus radio, reaffirmed Syria's demand for the cancellation of the agreement.

Military Situation — Clashes continued in Beirut and Lebanese army positions in Suq al-Gharb again came under fire, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios. The Army killed 10 gunmen and destroyed several of their vehicles in Baysur and Shimlan, the Voice of Lebanon added. Meanwhile, two Israeli soldiers were killed in an ambush northeast of An-Nabatiyah, Jerusalem radio announced.

Iran-Iraq War

"Under no circumstances" will Iran accept the "special conditions and rights" that the United States has announced for its naval units in a communique issued to all countries in the Gulf region, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry stated in remarks reported by Tehran radio. Iran "strongly condemns" as a form of "blackmail and aggression" both the "illegal" presence of U.S. naval units in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman and the "baseless, worthless" U.S. "claim of sovereignty" over an unspecified area of international water. The U.S. government bears responsibility for any U.S. action which leads to an "incident" in the region and which can be considered a "serious threat" to the current situation in the Straightof Hormuz, the spokesman added.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, in a 28 February speech carried by Tehran radio, dismissed President Reagan's statement that the United States would not allow Hormuz to be closed. Khomeyni said the situation is no longer as it was before when U.S. "permission was sought." Now it is up to Iran to grant permission and in a confrontation with a "nation," the United States will be defeated. Regarding the Iraqi leader, Khomeyni said that "Saddam is going to fall" and neither America nor any other power can keep him in office.

Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan confirmed the Iraqi air raid against the Iranian oil terminal on Khark Island despite Iranian denials, according to AFP and Paris radio reports. The operation was carried out as a "clear warning" and not a bluff, he added. The Iraqi official, who is in Paris to discuss French loans, said that the Super Etendards delivered by France last fall have been "ready for use for some time," but he did not acknowledge their actual use in the most recent air raids, AFP reported.

Meanwhile, four Iranian divisions were "wiped out" by Iraqi troops when they attempted a "foolhardy and stupid" operation to infiltrate the Al-Huwayzah marshes, a 28 February Armed Forces General Command Communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported. The Iraqi counteroffensive succeeded in recapturing the town of Al-Baydah, the communique added. In other developments, Iraqi Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nusayyif Jasim ad-Dulaymi said that 30,000 Iranian troops were killed in battles in the Maysan operational sector over the last 3 days, INA reported. An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement to INA, denied Iranian claims that two Iraqi planes were shot down in the Khaybar operational zone on 28 February. Iran has committed a "new crime" by executing the Iraqi soldiers it captured during battles east of Basra earlier this month, INA announced citing Iraqi officers who had managed to escape.

An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 28 February reported the halting of two Iraqi counteroffensives, one in the Al-'Uzayr sector and one in the sector south of Majnun. More than 700 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded during these battles, the communique added. Losses were inflicted on Iraqi industrial and military installations by artillery fire against the cities of Basra, Khanaqin and Mandali, another military communique announced. The Iranian cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr continued to come under long-range Iraqi artillery fire while Iraqi planes bombed the city of Dehloran in Ilam province, IRNA reported. Iraqi planes also attacked Bakhtaran, killing 19 civilians and injuring more than 80 others, Tehran radio said.

Jerusalem Attack

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) claimed responsibility for the 28 February Jerusalem grenade attack in a communique from Damascus reported by AFP. The DFLP communique said the "Sami abu Ghawsh" commando had inflicted "heavy losses" on "Jewish colonizers." An anonymous caller subsequently telephoned AFP's Paris headquarters

to claim responsibility for the attack on behalf of the "Al-'Asifah units of Fatah."

PLO-Jordan

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will resume his discussions with Jordanian prime minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat on 29 February and the current talks will result in a joint statement defining a "unified stand," the Amman paper *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* reported. Meanwhile, 'Arafat met with 42 personalities from the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the *JORDAN TIMES* noted.

Reporting on Jordan's diplomatic moves, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service claimed that King Husayn has informed the United States that he wishes to enter peaceful negotiations with Israel within a few weeks, with or without 'Arafat. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz divulged Husayn's position to Israeli Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres during their recent meeting in Washington, the radio added. However, Israeli political circles cited by Jerusalem radio subsequently described this as "exaggerated," contending that such reports are disseminated by U.S. officials to demonstrate that the United States is continuing its efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

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Chedli Klibi Leaves for Damascus on 'Unexpected' Visit

LD281449 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Tunis, 28 Feb (KUNA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi today left for Damascus on an unexpected visit that was not previously announced. Informed sources at the Arab League informed KUNA that Klibi will hold talks with Syrian officials regarding developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war.

PNC Said To Meet in Algiers in Late March

GF281912 Doha QNA in Arabic 1835 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Amman, 28 Feb (QNA) — An informed Palestinian source has said that the PNC will hold its next meeting in Algiers during the last week of March. In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Amman, the source said that contacts were made with PNC members in several Arab countries regarding preparations for this meeting.

Baghdad PLO Radio Reports on Jerusalem Explosion

JN281737 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] An enemy police source has said that at least 20 Zionists were wounded, some of them seriously as a result of an explosion that took place in the western sector of Jerusalem today. The source said that the explosion was caused by several hand grenades that had been planted in the central market of Jaffa Road. The source added that the police found another bomb in the market and were able to defuse it. More than 30 Palestinians were arrested. The same source said that the police began searching for a young man who was seen running away from the site of the explosion. He reiterated that Zionist hospitals are in a state of emergency.

Baghdad PLO Radio on 'Arafat's Amman Talks

JN282204 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1641 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The unique nature of Palestinian struggle — a struggle to regain national rights and achieve Arab unity — which stems from the Palestinian masses' will, provides the Palestinian struggle with its distinguished traits and ability to pursue its march without hesitation or retreat. The best proof of this unique nature of the Palestinian struggle, which is based on the principle of unshaken adherence to the Palestinian people's national and political rights and their noble pan-Arab trends that have been governing this struggle since the beginning of this century, is what is currently taking place in Jordan — the summit talks between the Arab Palestinian and the Jordanian leaderships. These talks emanate from the will of both the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples and are based on asserting the national rights of these two peoples. The talks also emanate from the distinguished characteristics which both Arab peoples enjoy.

The political uniqueness of the Palestine question has put before the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership, represented by the PLO and its brother commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], a stream of martyrs' blood that cannot be bypassed — a stream that separates the Palestinian people's rights to sovereignty, independence, and establishment of their independent state on their own land from any concession of these rights. Any Arab unity or federation can only be established within this framewoprk on the basis of these rights, which the Palestinians will never cede at any price. The Palestinian people are ready to struggle for these rights — a struggle that will inevitably lead to victory. This is what the Palestinian people and their leadership have continuously asserted. The principle of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, especially their right to determine their future on their national soil and to establish their independent state on it, will remain the principle that governs the political and military struggle of these people and their leadership. This principle also governs the summit talks that are currently taking place in Jordan.

Greetings to the Palestinian people who are struggling for their national rights and greetings to their struggling leadership, the sole and legitimate representative of these people, their rights, and objectives.

OPEC's Ahmed Said Comments on Future Production
FL282314 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2116 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Feb (NOTIMEX) — As the international economy reactivates, OPEC's position in the world market will grow stronger, making an increase of 6.5 million barrels in daily production of crude oil possible in 1985 and 1986.

After making the statement, OPEC Research Director Ahmed Said explained that in the next 2 years the organization could increase production from 17.5 million barrels daily to 24 million and reach the 30 million after 1990.

During the 2d day of the 12th workshop for OPEC newsmen being held here, Said asserted,(?with respect) to future supply and demand of hydrocarbons, that a greater participation of OPEC in the market does neither mean, nor will it mean that it is acting in a monopolistic manner.

Referring to the sale of crude from U.S. strategic reserves on the international market, which in the past has led to a weakening of the crude price, the oil representative stated that OPEC does not fear that step, but the threat could emerge if the joint reserves of developing countries go on sale, because it totals 3 billion barrels.

He noted that in the next 15 years some countries will cease to be oil producers; some members of OPEC are among them. Most significant, however, is that even the Soviet Union and England will cease to be important producers of crude.

In view of this, he stated that even though the threat is remote, it will force some countries to take care of their hydrocarbon resources, since they represent the principal factor for the well-being of their citizens.

Referring to energy alternatives, such as nuclear electricity, Said said it is a limited alternate source because it can only generate electricity, and added that alternate energy sources should not be considered competitive, but rather complementary to hydrocarbons as energy resources.

KUWAIT

Deputy Premier Urges Swift End to Gulf War

LD281421 Kuwait KUNA in English 1312 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 28 (KUNA) — Kuwait Tuesday urged the United Nations and the nonaligned countries, as well as the Islamic Conference Organization and world leaders to move swiftly and end the grinding war between Iraq and Iran.

An appeal describing the almost four year old war as a "great tragedy" was addresed by Kuwait's deputy premier, foreign and information minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah. The continuing fighting, Shaykh Sabah stressed, has unveiled the "dreadful impotency" of the world community to stem this bloodshed between the two Moslem neighbors. The Kuwaiti official called on the world conscience to act immediately to stop the "massive hemorrage and destruction" that is draining the economic and cultural components of the two warring states.

In reply to a query on the Gulf war, the deputy prime minister of Kuwait noted that recently the battles had escalated in alarming dimensions, posing a threat not only to Iraq and Iran, but to the entire world. The deputy premier believes that the war has continued that far, and regards the present "dangerous bend" to be a result of the failure of the world community to take sufficient and adequate steps to check the fighting.

Shaykh Sabah pointed out that Kuwait's concern is prompted by the dangers that confront the world as a result of this war, which may spill out, affecting humanity as a whole. The "historical sense of responsibility" is another factor that makes it imperative upon Kuwait to demand rapid intervention, he added. Shaykh Sabah recalled that the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council last November had expressed anxiety and alerted the world community to the dangers of the Iraq-Iran war as was reflected in its resolutions. The deputy premier suggested that such resolutions together with that of the security council or the Islamic Conference Organization could serve as a springboard to end this war.

PDRY

SFRY's President Spiljak Arrives for Visit

GF290600 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Comrade Mika Spiljak, president of the SFRY Presidency, arrived in Aden this evening on a 3-day visit to the PDRY at the invitation of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Comrade Spiljak was officially received by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad; brother members of the Political Bureau; members of the YSP Central Committee; the ministers; a number of party and state officials; and Arab and foreign diplomatic representatives in Aden.

During hs visit, Comrade Spiljak will hold talks with Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad on bilateral relations which link the two fraternal countries, the means of strengthening and promoting them and issues of mutual concern.

Minister Receives Soviet Maritime Delegation

GF281750 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Aziz, member of the YSP Central Committee and communications minister, received in his office today the delegation of the Soviet Ministry of the Maritime Fleet, which is currently visiting our country.

During the meeting, bilateral cooperation relations in the naval transportation field and the means to develop and strengthen them to serve the two friendly countries, were discussed.

SAUDI ARABIA

Fahd Meeting With Spain's Gonzalez Reported

LD281233 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Saudi-Spanish talks began this afternoon under the chairmanship of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez at the Astan-Nasiriyah Palace.

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by the second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammad Aba al-Khayl; Minister of Commerce Dr Sulayman al-'Abd as-Sulayyim;the head of the western desk at the Foreign Ministry, Ma'mun Qabbani; and Saudi Ambassador to Spain Muhammad Nuri.

From the Spanish side, the talks were attended by Economy, Trade and Finance Minister Miguel Salvador Boyer; Spanish Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Tomas Shabari [name as heard]; and members of the delegation accompanying the Spanish prime minister.

Earlier today, Prime Minister Gonzalez received at his residence Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who told SPA later that they reviewed bilateral relations and cooperation between the Kingdom and Spain, and the means of bolstering them on a wider scale. He added: We have also discussed the most important issues affecting the Arab area, especially the Palestinian question, the situation in Lebanon, the Iraq-Iran war, Spain's role regarding them on the international and European levels, and the contributions it can make.

Prince Sa'ud added that there is a meeting of views in both countries' outlook on these issues in general, and that there is a lot of common ground between Spain and Saudi Arabia.

More on Fahd-Gonzalez Talks

LD290032 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] On his official visit to Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez today had a meeting lasting over 4 hours with the Saudi king, a meeting at which they discussed the situation in the Near East and bilateral relations. The Spanish Government spokesman said that during the meeting King Fahd asked Felipe Ganzalez to make every effort at international forums to contribute to a just solution of the Palestinian problem.

At the meeting with the Saudi king, their points of view coincided on the situation in the Near East and they agreed on the need for the president of Lebanon, Amin al-Jumayyil, to be supported, and for any attempt to partition the country to be rejected. At the meeting, they also discussed commercial cooperation between the two countries to reduce the Spanish trade deficit, resulting primarily from the oil bill. At the meeting, they expressed their concern at the war between Iran and Iraq which, after 4 years, is jeopardizing the stability of the region and the supply of oil to Europe and the United States.

Crown Prince Interviewed on Lebanon Situation

PM281038 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Feb 84 pp 1,3

[Interview with Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and head of the National Guard; by chief editor 'Irfan Nizam ad-Din [not further identified] and London *AL-MAJALLAH* chief editor 'Imad ad-Din Adib, in London — date not specified]

[Excerpt] Question: Will Your Highness please tell us about the outcome of your visit to Damascus?

Answer: There is no doubt that sisterly Syria, both as a people and a country, occupies an extremely important position for our success in surmounting difficulties of the present juncture, resulting from events facing the Arab nation. Fortunately, our relations with sisterly Syria are governed by ties of brotherhood and are not circumstantial; they are regulated by a common destiny and their motivation is unity of objectives. For this reason, his majesty has been and still is anxious to consult with the Syrian brothers, foremost among whom is His Excellency Brother President Hafiz al-Asad, in order to appraise the international conditions, evaluate their effect on the regional situation, pinpoint objectives, and define the means of achieving them. I have felt that His Excellency Brother President Hafiz al-Asad has a deep understanding of the nature of things and a conscious will to deal with the explosive situation in the area, particularly since Israel has shifted from the position of watching and waiting to that of invasion and aggression.

Question: How do you see the possibility of reaching a solution in Lebanon?

Answer: Only one party is capable of putting an end to the Lebanese tragedy; it is solely the Lebanese themselves. Their way of doing this is dialogue using reason and not arms; arms cannot subjugate nor persuade. The continuation of coexistence depends on persuasion and not on subjugation, as the use of force has always failed to resolve any dispute.

Therefore, the Kingdom, its leader the king, and His Excellency Brother President Hafiz al-Asad have been anxious to convene the first national dialogue conference in Geneva. But in order for the dialogue to succeed among the Lebanese brothers it should stem from a sense of citizenship and not sectarianism, and of patriotism and not factionalism or partisanship. Its objective should be the preservation of the integrity of the Lebanese territory, people and state, as well as the preservation of its Arab identity. Lebanon's present is linked to the past and its future is organically linked to the Arab world's life and destiny. Some 9 years of killing, wounding and maiming, and of total destruction have fragmented Lebanon; emotionalism has replaced reason and the Lebanese crisis developed into something terrible.

As to the saying that a certain party or parties wish the Lebanese civil war to continue, it is true. This party is Israel, whose designs on the south are no secret. For more than 50 years, the Jewish agency, even before Israel was created, used to say that the waters and hills of southern Lebanon are essential for Israel's economy and military security. Also, Israel believes that a Lebanon divided into statelets would be the forerunner of dividing the Arab area into sectarian statelets. Israel does not see geographical borders but political borders protected by a belt of sectarian states backed by another belt of racist states. Whoever wants to verify this can examine the minutes of the meetings of world Zionist conferences as well as the memoirs of Shertok, Sassoon, Ben Gurion and other leading world Zionists.

Question: Another important question is the question of Arab solidarity. Do you see any possibilities of convening the coming Arab summit?

Answer: The aim of every conference should be success. Therefore,under no circumstances should a conference, particularly a summit, be held before the means of success are ensured. The failure of such a conference would be a disaster, would cause bitter frustration for the peoples, spread pessimism, weaken resolve, and undermine ties between people and their governments. For this reason, the convening of a summit should not be an end in itself; rather it should be the means to achieve the end, which is unity of views, unity of will and unity of action.

The Saudi Arabian Kingdom believes that Arab solidarity is capable of ensuring these three objectives, and for this reason it has based its diplomacy on three principles: conciliation of views, coordination of capabilities and unification of efforts. For this reason, the Kingdom's solidarity policy is not only a policy of conciliation but also of mobilization. The Kingdom conciliates in order to mobilize and it is mobilizing because mobilization is the number one condition for victory.

Frankly, the disunity of Arabs today is something strange and incomprehensible. I cannot see one single reason, be it strategic or tactical, that justifies the division in the Arab ranks from which we are suffering. Therefore, I can only attribute division in the Arab ranks to purely temperamental reasons which foreign quarters have managed to exploit. A state is governed by reason

and not by temperament. There is no question that temperament is misleading and causes division and harm more than anything else.

Question: What is the basis regulating the Saudi-British relations? What were the topics you discussed with Mrs Thatcher, and what is your impression of your meeting with the lady prime minister?

Answer: The Saudi Arabian Kingdom's relations with Britain are possibly the longest-standing relations with any European country. They are steeped in history and characterized by understanding and mutual respect. They are free of bitterness even when there are differences in views. This has been the case ever since the time of 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Kingdom's founder. Although the Kingdom realizes that it lives in a world governed by interests and not principles, and by deeds and not intentions, it has linked and still links deeds to intentions and interests to principles. For this reason my talks with Mrs Thatcher were characterized by clarity of intentions and frankness of principles.

As for the topics I discussed with Mrs Thatcher, the number one and central topic was the Palestinian problem, particularly since Britain is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council. It is time for the major powers to support right and to put an end to the Israeli arrogation of power that refuses to recognize the Palestinian people's right to return to their country and to establish a state on their national soil. We also discussed the Lebanese problem and the means of solving it.

I also discussed with Mrs Thatcher the question of the Gulf war and the dangers consequent upon its continuation, as well as the need to restore peace between the two sisterly Islamic states Iraq and Iran, particularly since Iraq has time and again declared its willingness to resort to reason rather than arms and has shown such willingness by withdrawing its forces from Iranian territory. We also discussed issues of common interest and ways to promote mutual benefits between us.

I must say that my impression of my meeting with Mrs Thatcher was very positive. I found her to be well versed in the details of the problems of the Arab area, which gives rise to hope for close understanding and fruitful cooperation, particularly since Mrs Thatcher has a bright intellect and is highly sensitive.

Commentary Praises Iraq's Desire for Peace

LD281435 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Analysis by Hamzah Muhsin as-Saqqaf]

[Text] The recent escalation of the Iran-Iraq war has brought about serious developments and widened the circle of danger that threatens world interests in addition to the peace and security of the region.

In what was described as a natural reaction, Iraqi aircraft attacked a number of targets inside Iran. Observers took this as a indication of Iraq's impatience with the repeated Iranian attacks on Iraqi territory. In fact, Iraq's position in this war with Iran has now been attracting world sympathy and winning growing support against the Iranian stance, which is characterized by complete and constant disregard for mediation and good offices, and by rejection of the appeals of the international community and UN Security Council resolutions 145, 479, 514 and 540.

The Iranian attitude has aroused the international community's concern for security and the future of peace in this strategically important part of the world. International statements and statements by official circles have reflected the anxiousness of international forces to see an end to the Iraq-Iran war and to this rush to escalate it.

This is evident from the European Community statement issued in Paris at the end of the EEC foreign ministers conference, which appealed to the UN secretary general to resume his good offices with both sides; a matter which is welcomed by Iraq.

The world looks to Iraq's response to the peace efforts with great appreciation. Iraq has taken the initiative to achieve this end from the first week of the war, when it responded to UN Security Council Resolution No 479 of 28 September 1980. Iraq has continued to respond to the international and Islamic mediation efforts and the peace appeals throughout the past 4 and 1/2 years, while Iran continued to cling to rejection, a matter which increases sympathy with Iraq.

In spite of all this, and as time goes on, the Iraq-Iran war and the danger it presents has been widening, while the world has made no progress in convincing Iraq of the importance of peace.

Official on Preparing National Guardsmen

GF281522 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] An official National Guard source has affirmed the ability of the National Guard — under the leadership of Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, and Prince Badr ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy commander of the National Guard — to prepare qualified national cadres who are capable of tackling the problems of this century, as well as furthering achievements by utilizing their capabilities in the interest of the Kingdom's development projects in general, and the National Guard in particular.

The source affirmed that the National Guard slogan of "Human beings first," stems from its belief that modern conditions in various specializations will only be beneficial if each individual is capable, honest and loyal to his religion, king, and homeland.

And on this basis, the National Guard, under the leadership of Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Prince Badr ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, will achieve daily progress on the path of development and modernization.

YAR

SFRY's President Spiljak Concludes Visit

LD290021 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2141 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] San'a' 28 Feb (TANJUG) — We have great trust in Yugoslavia and feel genuine friendship toward it. Your country never interferes in the internal affairs of other countries. Your stand on the Middle East and the Arab world in general is a stand which we highly value. Moreover, Yugoslavia is one of the founders of the Nonaligned Movement and the Arab Republic of Yemen has been in the movement since its very founding.

This was stated to TANJUG in San'a' today by 'Ali Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, who stressed that the 2-day visit by Mika Spiljak, president of the SFRY Presidency, would be a crucial point in relations between the two countries. I must say that I feel great satisfaction that a meeting took place at this level over the last few days — the first time at this, the highest level — and this very fact indicates that we are talking here about two friendly and also nonaligned countries who found it easy here in San'a' to find a common language, Salih said.

The Yugoslav side also stressed their satisfaction with the talks over the past 2 days. The two countries' delegations exchanged views on a wide range of international issues. Of course, priority was given to questions concerning the Middle East, the crisis in Lebanon, the Palestinian issue, the Iran-Iraq war and the activities of the Nonaligned Movement and bilateral cooperation.

Today, the last day of their stay in San'a', President Mika Spiljak and his associates talked to the president of the Yemen Arab Republic and his associates about the Iran-Iraq war and the possibilities of ending, as they put it, the fratricidal conflict between the two countries. The two sides agreed that it is necessary for the nonaligned countries to undertake urgent action to end this conflict because not only does it harm both Iran and Iraq, but also its consequences could be far-reaching for a region much broader than just these two countries. In this connection, it was said that the Nonaligned Movement has a very responsible role today because it is an irreplaceable factor in the world in solving the many conflict situations.

The two delegations also talked today about bilateral cooperation. Their joint view was that in the sphere of economic relations, not all the possibilities have been explored, and that cooperation at this level should be expanded. It was agreed to increase commodity exchange which at present amounts to only $5 million, and on the Yemeni side it was suggested that Yugoslav organizations should take part in projects in agriculture and the infrastructure and building of small industrial enterprises.

At the end of today's talks, Mika Spiljak, president of the SFRY Presidency, invited the president of the Yemen Arab Republic to visit Yugoslavia. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

The Yemeni president gave a private lunch today for the president of the SFRY Presidency at which all the members of the Yemeni government were present. Immediately after this, President Mika Spiljak of the SFRY Presidency, together with the members of the delegation, left San'a' for a 2-day official and friendly visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The guests from Yugoslavia were seen off at the airport in San'a' by the president of the Yemen Arab Republic and the highest-ranking political figures in the country.

Joint Communique Issued

LD290034 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2321 GMT 28 Feb 84

["Pool" item]

[Text] San'a', February 28 (TANJUG) — In a communique issued today, Tuesday, at the end of Yugoslav Presidency President Mika Spiljak's visit to the Yemen Arab Republic, the two countries expressed their concern over the deterioration of the international situation.

Spiljak and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih noted that bloc rivalry was mounting, that there was no trust between the big powers and that force and pressures were being resorted to increasingly frequently. The international situation is further exacerbated by the arms race, the absence of any dialogue and the failure to deal with the fundamental political and economic problems of the present-day world, they said.

Spiljak and Salih assessed that, in this situation, the movement of nonalignment is the only alternative to the bloc division of the world, and that it offers solutions for crucial international problems. They underscored the importance of the nonaligned policy as an independent and irreplaceable non-bloc factor. They reaffirmed the authentic principles of the movement and underscored the need to strengthen its unity and action capability.

Yugoslavia and the Yemen Arab Republic supported a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis which implies Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the realization of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and the creation of its own state on the national territory. The two sides agreed it is necessary that the PLO, as the only independent and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, should participate in the solving of the Middle East crisis. They also pointed to the need for preserving the PLO's unity and independent decision-making and activity.

The joint communique also underlines the importance of the realization of national unity, independence, sovereignty and national integrity of Lebanon. The prerequisite for this is the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territory of Lebanon, it states.

Yugoslavia and the Yemen Arab Republic support all initiatives and actions conducive to a peaceful ending of the Iraq-Iran war and the settling of all questions in dispute through direct negotiations, on the basis of the principles of the policy of nonalignment, the U.N. Charter and the honoring of the legitimate rights and

interests of both sides. They pointed to the need for further mediation efforts, primarily by the Nonaligned Movement, towards a peaceful and early end to this conflict.

Yugoslavia and the Yemen Arab Republic also came out for the establishment of zones of peace in the world's crisis regions, which would substantially contribute to the relaxation of tension in international relations. In this context, they mentioned in particular the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea and the Mediterranean.

Pointing to the unfavorable development of international economic relations and the difficult position of the developing countries in particular. Yugoslavia and the Yemen Arab Republic underlined the need for urgent and concrete efforts by the nonaligned countries for establishing a new international economic order.

The development of bilateral relations was assessed as successful. Both sides expressed a readiness to take appropriate measures to promote their cooperation in various fields, including economy, science, technology, culture, health and information.

Foreign Minister Ghali on Relations With Africa

NC290904 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 29 Feb (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has emphasized that Egypt's concern with Africa was not something born on the spur of the moment. He added that this concern has never slackened or weakened, because Africa is the mainstay of Egyptian diplomacy.

In an interview with the weekly magazine *AKHIR SA'AH*, published today, the minister of state for foreign affairs said that the African group in the United Nations enjoys an outstanding influence within that international organization and other international bodies. He pointed out that President Husni Mubarak's tour of several African states reaffirms Egypt's interest in unifying African efforts in order to win its last battle for liberation: the independence of Namibia. The tour, Dr Ghali added, also aimed at concerting all efforts to serve economic development and to fend off the ghost of famine in the continent. Dr Ghali said that the course of events shows that Egypt's concern with Africa is increasing.

Dr Ghali pointed out that his upcoming visit to the African Continent is in itself evidence of the concern that Egypt attaches to Africa. He affirmed that Egypt has always been and will continue to be ready to construct bridges of understanding with Ethiopian officials and with President Mengistu Haile Mariam, because the Egyptian position is based on the historical relations between Egypt and Ethiopia.

Dr Ghali emphasized that Egypt greatly believes in the OAU as a framework for reconciliation among African states. He said that the famine threatening the African people is a tragedy, and urged all parties concerned to speed up the formulation of a strategic concept to enable Africa to ride out its long-standing predicament.

More on Spiljak-Mubarak Talks Reported

AU281151 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 27 Feb pp 1, 5

[Report by special correspondent Dejan Lukic]

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Feb — The Yugoslav-Egyptian talks at the highest level were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, with a proximity or identity of views on many international, regional and bilateral questions.

In the talks, emphasis was given to the need for bilateral cooperation — particularly economic — to be raised to a higher level through new, more inventive forms. The two sides fully expressed their desire that the activities of the nonaligned countries be made more dynamic in solving the problems that endanger world peace and security.

For example, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, said in the course of the talks today that his country was "fully devoted to the nonaligned policy" and expressed his government's view that fresh initiatives of the nonaligned are necessary to enhance the unity of the movement in solving international conflict situations.

It has been learned from well-informed sources that in addition, President Mubarak spoke extensively about the Egyptian perception of the situation in the Middle East, in Lebanon and in the Iraq-Iran war, as well as about his recent visit to some African countries. He particularly stressed that Egypt's relations with the PLO are now good, that the peace project of the Arab summit in Fes is a good basis for action in solving the Palestinian problem, but that it unfortunately "remains without a motor," and that for the time being there is nobody to implement it.

President Mubarak also informed his guest about a recent telephone conversation he had with Iraqi President Sadam Husayn. On that occasion, as our sources say, the Iraqi president told him that "the Iranian attack has been broken" and that the situation at the front is "excellent."

Mubarak Cables Spiljak

NC281534 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent the following cable to Mika Spiljak, president of the SFRY State Presidency:

Your Excellency Mika Spiljak, president of the SFRY State Presidency,
I received with thanks your kind cable, which you sent us on your departure from our country. I am pleased to send Your Excellency sincere thanks for your noble feelings toward me and toward the Egyptian people who harbor for you deep love, appreciation and respect.

The talks we held were constructive and fruitful. They will have a positive effect in strengthening and developing the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries for their common benefit, in serving peace and security in the world, and in supporting the Nonaligned Movement so that our people may contribute to establishing a better human society.

With my sincere greetings, I wish you, dear friend, good health and happiness and constant progress and success for the friendly Yugoslav people.

AL-ANBA' on Improving Soviet-Egyptian Relations

GF241802 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 23 Feb 84 pp 1, 22

[Dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] During the presentation of condolences on the death of Andropov, Moscow made important contacts with the condoling Egyptian delegation — which was led by Mamduh Salim, the president's assistant and former prime minister — and which included Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid, Foreign Ministry assistant, and a number of senior Soviet officials, foremost of whom was Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the man who ranks second in Moscow.

AL-ANBA' has learned that the meetings lasted 7 hours. During these meetings, the two sides reviewed the Egyptian-Soviet situation which led to the severing of relations. According to confirmed reports, Egyptian-Soviet relations are expected, this time, to witness genuine development which will shortly lead to an exchange of ambassadors between Cairo and Moscow.

Interior Ministry Expels 5 'Dangerous' Syrians

NC290902 Cairo MENA in English 0750 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, Feb 29 (MENA) — The Interior Ministry has decided to expel five Syrians from Egypt on the charge of trading in foreign currency in the black market. The ministry described them as dangerous to the national economy.

AL-AKHBAR reported the news in today's issue, saying said that Egyptian authorities had seized in their office in Cairo one million dollars in cash and half a kilogram of gold.

Court Orders Release of 32 Fundamentalists

NC282026 Paris AFP in English 2007 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, Feb 28 (AFP) — Egypt's state security court today ordered the release of 32 of 176 people being held in a trial of members of the Al-Jihad Moslem fundamentalist group, it was announced here. The trial has been adjourned until March 21 in response to a request from defense attorneys.

This new group of fundamentalists is accused of "attempting to overthrow the Egyptian regime by force," in order to set up an Islamic state.

Hearings in another trial, involving 302 Al-Jihad members, have ended and the verdict will be given on July 21. A total of 299 of the 302 risk the death penalty.

AL-AHALI Scores Assault on Labor Party Leader

PM281212 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 22 Feb 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din's Militia"]

[Text] For the second time in less then 6 months, Labor Party [SLP] leader Ibrahim Shukri and a number of his colleagues have been the victims of a premeditated assault by NDP [National Democratic Party] thugs. In this latest incident, which occurred in a village in Ad-Daqahliyah Governorate, a house of God was stormed, Friday prayers were disrupted, and the SLP leader and his companions suffered injuries which required hostipal treatment. All this happened while an investigation into the first assault in Ismailia Governorate has yet to be completed.

The new attack confirms the gangster-style conduct of the NDP's political relations with the opposition parties, and all other members of the public. It does not abide by the current laws, is not deterred by court rulings, and its leaders, like the government's decisions, are not governed by civilized traditions. Contrary to what some people expected, the NDP's ideological bankruptcy and the high rate of corruption within its ranks have not prompted it to reconsider its course or purge its ranks of the corrupt elements. The more it is aware of its weak position in the elections, of its dwindling chances of gaining public confidence, and of the fierce competition of the opposition parties, the more it indulges in acts of gangsterism with the clubs of its ruffians and the pens of its journalists, while its administrative sections refuse to abide by the law.

We have every right to regard this despicable attack on the SLP leader as the green light for [Prime Minister] Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din's militia to carry out more acts of violence and to gradually escalate the violence with the escalation of the government's election campaign. The local police's neutrality between the aggressors and the victims is, in essence, protection and encouragement for the aggressors, despite the interior minister's instructions, which have, of course, lost their value because of the collusion of the local police departments with the militia of the NDP's secretary general.

It is our duty to tell those who care about this homeland's social peace — and that does not include the NDP or its government — that these people are playing with fire, and that when a government stops acting as a body responsible for maintaining order, implementing the constitution and the law, and protecting the public, it gives every citizen and every group the right to defend themselves with their own hands and clubs, and to defend their rights under the constitution. This is the civil war which the leader of the new Wafd Party warned against when he was commenting on the first attack on the SLP leader.

Will the sensible people in the NDP take the necessary steps to reassure the public, and the necessary measures to deter the NDP thugs and the security department members who collaborate with them before the militias fill the homeland and before there is more blood than water in the river? That is what we expect them to do.

Armed Forces Issues Communique No 1,389 — 28 Feb

JN281744 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,389 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 28 February 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

For the sake of maintaining great Iraq in constant glory and loftiness and for the sake of keeping its land safeguarded and pure and the foreheads and banners of its men high, the sons of our great people and brave Armed Forces are continuing their confrontation of the expansionist enemies, scoring new epics and splendid victories in the arenas of pride and honor, and inflicting on the vile enemy bitter and continuous defeats. The results are as follows:

1. Subsequent to our Communique No 1,388 of today, in which our brave Armed Forces and the vanguards of the heroic Popular Army in the operational sector east of the Tigris announced to our proud people and glorious Arab nation the glad tidings of the great victory scored after completely destroying the enemy forces, our valiant units are still counting the enemy dead, the destroyed and seized weapons and equipment, and the evacuated enemy troops captured today.

2. An enemy force tried to attack our heroic forward units in the III Army Corps sector at dawn today. Our valiant units confronted them, clashed with them with all types of weapons, and managed to repulse the enemy offensive, inflicting large losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment. The known enemy losses in this sector amounted to 2,000 dead, whose bodies are still littering the battlefield, and the destruction of large quantities of various types of weapons and equipment, in addition to the losses mentioned previously.

3. Our valiant Air Force aircraft, which had full control of the battle skies, today continued their violent attacks on the enemy troop and vehicular concentrations in the operational sectors of the III and IV Army Corps, scoring direct hits and very effective blows. Capable formations of our fighter planes carried out daring missions against the enemy units and concentrations opposite our units' positions in the III Army Corps sector and turned the battlefield into a fire which burned the enemy troops, vehicles, and weapons. Our fighter planes also dealt a strong blow to the enemy concentrations in one of its camps in the Dehloran area. All our fighter planes returned safely to base after carrying out 247 combat missions, praise be to God.

4. Our capable helicopter gunships today launched concentrated and daring raids on the enemy positions, units, and troop concentrations in the two operational sectors of the III and IV Army Corps, scoring direct and very effective hits. Large fires were seen covering the enemy positions and concentrations of troops, weapons, and vehicles. The known losses amounted to the destruction of 39 boats, some of which were loaded with personnel and hardware, and a number of vehicles, armored personnel carriers, and hardware, in addition to the destruction of groups of enemy troop concentrations. Our helicopter gunships today carried out 203 combat missions before they all returned safely to base, praise be to God.

5. Yesterday evening and today, the criminal Iranian regime continued to shell Basra, Khanaqin, Halabjah, and Zurbatiyah with heavy artillery. The savage enemy shelling led to the wounding of six civilians and the destruction of three houses in Basra; the martyrdom of one woman in Halabjah; the destruction of five houses and damage to one elementary school in Khanaqin; and damage to several civilian establishments in Zurbatiyah.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 February 1984

Ramadan Comments in France on Khark Attack

For Paris and INA reportage on the visit to France by Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and RCC member, including his meetings with French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, Defense Minister Charles Hernu, and Finance Minister Jacques Delors concerning a possible further French loan of Fr8 billion, as well as his press conference remarks confirming the air raid on Khark Island and warning of an Iraqi blockade against Iran, see the France section of the 29 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

President Visits Air Force Headquarters

JN281608 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA) — President Saddam Husayn today visited the headquarters of the Air Force and Air Defense.

President Saddam Husayn praised the Iraqi pilots' heroic deeds and daring assaults, which were extremely effective in repulsing the Iranian regime's aggression.

The commander of the Air Force and Air Defense received and saw off the president at the headquarters.

Commander Congratulates President on Victory

JN281400 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1305 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Cable to President Saddam Husayn from commander of III Army Corps dated 28 February]

[Text] To Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, pride of the Arabs, founder of the renaissance and the glories, and knight of Arabism, may God preserve him. From Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd ar-Rashid, commander of the III Army Corps.

Great Sire, we gladly inform you of the annihilation of thousands of harmful Magian insects which carried out an abortive offensive late last night. They were wiped out by the Sa'd and Qutaybah forces as well as by the zealous infantry units attached to these forces, the artillery of the brave Al-Qadisiyah forces,

with the participation of our daring helicopter gunships, backed during the day by our capable Air Force.

These forces turned the Magi into black masses piled up on our pure land. Congratulations to you, great Sire, and to our generous people and all good people in the Arab homeland and the world.

We and the Al-Qadisiyah forces, inspired by the faith and determination of the gallant leader, will remain faithful to the pledge and will turn what is left of their harmful insects into food for the birds of the wilderness and the fishes of the marshes. May God grant us success.

[Signed] Staff Maj Gen Mahir 'Abd ar-Rashid, commander of the III Army Corps, 28 February 1984

Baghdad Azeri: Tehran Not Safe From Attack
GF281346 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Mullah 'Ali Khamene'i, who is the head of the Supreme Defense Council of the forces of Khomeyni, has made the following official statement: We have ordered our artillery to bombard all Iraqi cities.

With such an order, Khamene'i has trampled upon UN Resolution 540. And obviously, the supporters of Khomeyni have rejected the UN Security Council resolution calling on the two sides to refrain from bombarding cities and towns. They have conveyed official instructions to the people of Basra and other Iraqi cities to the effect that they should evacuate the cities — even Baghdad itself. However, with his antihuman and immoral statement, 'Ali Khamene'i has only dug his own grave for 'Ali Khamene'i's orders will result in the destruction of all Iranian towns and cities by missiles and aircraft fire.

This is a warning: If the Khomeyni dregs move to realize their dirty and dark intentions, they should take into consideration the fact that this time not even Tehran, where Khomeyni lives, will remain safe from our missiles and aircraft attacks. We have issued our warning and thus free ourselves of any responsibility.

Further Azeri Commentary
GF281710 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: The Khomeyni dregs are clamoring in unison that their troops have reached the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers and that their intention is to perform their satanic prayers in Karbala' and An-Najaf. In other words, they intend to open the doors of sacred An-Najaf in the name of pure Islam and the Koran and in the name of Khaybar and turn the martyr's tomb upside down. Yes, in accordance with their slogans, they wish to regard Iraq's sacred and fertile lands as their own and disrupt the graves and tombs of [words indistinct].

Their hearts are not concerned with Karbala', An-Najaf, Kazimayn, Samarra', and other Iraqi cities and towns. Undoubtedly, if their hands were to touch these cities, graves, and tombs, they would turn them upside down. This is due to the fact that the Khomeyni dregs are regarded as the [name indistinct], Genghis Khans, and [name indistinct] of the 20th century. In the eyes of these sinful and criminal elements, graves, tombs, human beings, and mankind have no value at all.

Nevertheless, even the children and youths in Iraq are today aware of the nests which owlish Khomeyni and his dregs belong to. The Iraqi people know well the meaning (?of the slogans chanted) by the uninvited [word indistinct] of the current century. They are aware of their dark and satanic intentions. That is why they wish to eliminate this family of parasites and dump them into history's dust bin once and for all. Not only the people of Iraq, but also the peoples of Iran and progressive humanity as a whole must fulfill their historic and moral duties within the framework of this Islamic and humanitarian struggle, to rid progressive humanity of the bloody claws of this dirty and wicked family.

Iranian Claims on Downed Aircraft Denied
JN281918 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA) — Iraq denied Iranian claims that two Iraqi fighter planes were shot down at the battlefronts today.

In a statement to INA tonight, the military spokesman said that tonight's military communique clearly indicated that all the Iraqi fighter planes and helicopter gunships returned to base after accomplishing all their combat missions. He added that the Tehran rulers resorted to such claims after the defeat of their forces in the III and IV Army Corps sectors today.

Commander Cited on Recent War Successes
JN281912 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Maysan, Southern Iraq, 28 Feb (INA) — Staff Major General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, commander of the east Tigris operations, has said that the bodies of Iranian troops litter the battlefield in the area between Al-'Uzayr and the village of Al-Baydah, and that they were swallowed up by the marsh waters.

In a statement to INA, he added that today the Iraqi forces managed to destroy and wipe out the enemy force, which infiltrated the Huwayzah marshes, in a counteroffensive launched by our units yesterday morning. This counteroffensive, he said, ended with a splendid victory at noon today.

He indicated that in an attempt to strengthen its collapsing position, the enemy sent a large number of its troops to the battlefield. some of these troops managed to reach dry land under cover of dark. However, the alertness and determination of our units enabled our forces to wipe out the enemy force in a large offensive and chase the enemy remnants to the edges of the Huwayzah marshes.

He said that all the enemy POW's emphasized that they were pushed to the crematorium of death. They cursed criminal Khomeyni, enemy of mankind and morals.

He added that the Iranians will think a great deal before they again try to infiltrate the Iraqi territory because this land is fortified with principles, strength, and vigor.

He concluded by stressing that our fighters are always ready to meet and fight the enemy anywhere on Iraq's borders.

The INA team witnessed the evacuation of a large number of POW's from the battlefield to the rear.

Iranian Regime Accused of Killing POW's
JN282040 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA) — The Iranian regime has committed a new crime by executing the Iraqi soldiers it captured during its aggression east of Basra on the 22d of this month. A new crime is thus added to the crimes of the Iranian regime, which pours its rancor on the defenseless POW's following every abject defeat inflicted on it at the hands of our valiant men.

Lieutenant Hilal 'Abdallah, commander of one of the Iraqi forward barriers' groups, said that the enemy managed to capture him and his men after surrounding them and taking control of the earth rampart to the right of the barrier. The enemy then made him and his men stand in one line and opened machine gun fire on them.

He added that his wounds were not fatal and that none of his group was hit. [sentence as received] The enemy did not realize this and thought that all the men were martyred. He said that the enemy stole the men's money, watches, and rings before opening fire on them.

He further said that he and his companion stayed where they were after the enemy left them, waiting for the morning because he was sure that the Iraqi forces would launch a counterattack although the enemy forces did not manage to achieve any progress after controlling the forward rampart. The enemy, he said, only managed to be present in a few position at the forward barriers.

Lt Hilal added that at 0400 the next day a formation from the Iraqi special forces launched a counteroffensive, forcing the enemy to fleet with its collapsing and defeated remnants in the direction of its territory after sustaining a large number of dead or wounded.

Commander: Forces Use 'Only Ordinary Weapons'
JN282126 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2035 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Huwayzah, carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] In one of the headquarters of the east Tigris forces, which at noon today waged the battle of the Huwayzah marshes and accomplished all their tasks, I met with Staff Major General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, commander of these forces.

Asked about the progress of battles, the size and type of the attacking Iranian force, and the aims of the Iranian offensive, Al-Fakhri said: The Iranian offensive was aimed at the Al-'Amarah-Basra road, which is 12-30 km away from the Iranian borders in the marshes area. Following the failure of the Iranian attacks east of Basra, they launched this suicidal offensive. They used helicopters and boats and managed at more than one point to reach the Iraqi dry land. They also reached some areas near the road. The battlefront was 60 km long. In order not to preoccupy the III and IV Army Corps forces, it was decided to form the east Tigris forces, which I commanded in confronting the Iranian offensive in the marshes area.

Al-Fakhri added: At noon today my forces accomplished all their tasks and restored the village of Al-Baydah. The battle was fierce and all available means were used by the two sides. The Iranians used four divisions. We sank their boats so that they could not escape. In addition to Al-Baydah, we liberated the villages of (As-Sakhrah) and ('Ajradah). We cut off the Iranian forces' retreat line by air bombardment and gunboat fire.

Al-Fakhri estimated Iranian losses so far at 80,000 dead and wounded. Regarding reports on Iraqi employment of internationally prohibited weapons, the Iraqi commander said: We used only ordinary weapons, and we are not a superpower despite our great pride in our combat capability. Another battle is anticipated in Bi'r Majnunah, after which the marshes water will retun to stillness and the heat will shift to the Gulf waters.

'Aziz Reminds Arab Envoys of Fes Resolution
JN281953 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions in Baghdad this evening. During this meeting, 'Aziz explained in detail the situation at the battlefronts with the Iranian enemy and the hostile and expansionist aims of the Iranian regime's latest offensives.

The military situation and the Iraq Armed Forces' victories and their destruction of the enemy forces which tried to attack the Iraqi territories were also explained in detail.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister reminded the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions of the Fes summit resolution in October 1983 on the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, and of the Arab duties stipulated by that resolution— Arab countries were asked to express their solidarity with Iraq in case the Iranian regime continued its aggression against Arab Iraq.

'Aziz praised the fraternal Arab countries which expressed their stand in a frank and clear manner out of their pan-Arab feelings and in implemention of the Arab Fes summit resolution.

Muhammad Sa'id as-Sahhaf, Foreign Ministry under secretary,

and a representative of the Armed Forces General Command attended the meeting.

ATH-THAWRAH: 17 Iranian Commanders Killed

JN290700 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0450 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Feb (INA) — It was announced here that 17 Iranian military commanders and 3 mullahs were killed in the purging operation of the Huwayzah marshes.

Iranian prisoners who were captured by the Iraqi Armed Forces said that the commander of one the regiments, its chief of staff, and three brigade commanders were among those killed.

The Iranian prisoners told the *ATH-THAWRAH* correspondents in the area of operations that three Iranian mullahs and other officers were buried in Huwayzah.

INA: Lloyds Says Vessels Ordered To Change Route

JN281301 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] London, 28 Feb (INA) — John Michael, one of the officials in the British Lloyds Insurance Company, has stated that today international insurance companies sent urgent messages to their tankers, which are on their way to the ports in Khark Island, to change their course and proceed to the nearest port away from the Iranian coasts until they receive new instructions.

In a statemen tto INA today, he said that the Iraqi announcement on the raids carried out against oil tankers yesterday reached Lloyds a bit late — after the oil tanker market closed down — and that international reaction to these raids has not yet appeared. He stressed that the urgent messages sent by the international insurance companies, including Lloyds, to the vessels and tankers on their way to Khark Island, has been the first international reaction to these raids which has brought the Iraqi-Iranian war into a new stage.

Citizen Volunteer Posts To Open in South

JN281606 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1306 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Comrade 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Ghafur, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and secretary of the Ba'th Party's organizational office in the south, has announced that volunteer posts will be opened for the citizens in the Al-Qurnah District in the Al-Basrah Governorate and in the Al-'Uzayr subdistrict inthe Maysan Governorate in response to the pressing calls to the citizens in the villages and other areas of Al-Qurnah, Al-'Uzayr, and the marshes.

He added that the sons of the Arab tribes which participated alongside our brave forces in firmly confronting and chasing the remnants of the aggressors gave a good expression of their loyalty to the sacred homeland and gallant leader President Saddam Husayn when they protected — with all other brave ones — the honor of the Iraqi women and the soil of cherished Iraq against the desecration of the greedy aggressors.

'Izzat Ibrahim Meets Bulgarian, Cuban Envoys

JN281315 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim this morning received Cuban Ambassador in Iraq Hector Argiles Perez on the beginning of his official duties. During the meeting, relations between the two countries and the means of developing them were reviewed.

'Izzat Ibrahim also received Angel Angelov, Bulgarian ambassador in Iraq. During the meeting, relations of cooperation and friendship between the two countries and the means of developing these relations in the interests of the Iraqi and Bulgarian people were reviewed.

INA Cites DAILY MAIL on Syrian Coup Attempt

JN281601 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] London, 28 Feb (INA) — The newspaper *DAILY MAIL* today says that Hafiz al-Asad's regime launched a large-scale arrest campaign against its opponents last night after rumors were ciruclated in the Syrian capital yesterday on a coup attempt to topple Hafiz al-Asad, carried out during the past few days. The paper adds that Hafiz al-Asad's regime ordered the Defense Squads, which are led by Rif'at al-Asad, brother of Hafiz al-Asad, to occupy the strategic positions in Damascus. The paper cites its own sources as saying that the Syrian intelligence and security organs have prevented the foreign correspondent from reporting any news on the Syrian president's whereabouts or health condition.

Further Materials on Yasir 'Arafat's Activities

Reviews Badr Forces, Speaks

JN281855 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that the Palestinian revolution is celebrating its 20th anniversary at a time when a round of talks is being held with His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials in order to march together in this fateful, historic phase through which our Arab nation is passing, because the danger we face is not directed against the Jordanians and the Palestinians alone, but also against the Arab nation. During his inspection of the Badr forces of the Palestinian Liberation Army [PLA] in their camps this morning, he said: We are holding talks with our brothers in Jordan in order to lay joint groundwork for our march together to Jerusalem. He said the talks will continue and the unified Jordanian-Palestinian march will continue until we can return to Palestine and Jerusalem.

'Arafat reviewed the 19 years that have elapsed since the beginning of the Palestinian revolution in 1965. He praised the participation of the Badr forces in the Beirut war when the Palestinian revolution was besieged by the Israeli forces. He touched on the siege imposed on the Palestinians in the Al-Biqa', Al-Hirmil, Al-Jibab al-Humr, the camps of Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi, and Tripoli, and said that the image of the battles that moved from Beirut to the Al-Biqa' was changed but its meaning was not changed. He added that the aim of that battle was to force us to enter into the Israeli age and yield to a dangerous plan aimed at subjugating the region and creating sectarian statelets.

'Arafat described the Palestinian revolution as the phoenix of this age which emerges as a giant from among the ashes to stand in the face of the liquidation of the Palestinian revolution and confront all the attempts aimed against Palestinian national decisionmaking. He added: This decisionmaking will not be possessed by anybody; it is the possession of every Palestinian child, and all attempts to liquidate the revolution are doomed to failure.

'Arafat also drew attention to the serious situation in the region and appealed to the Arab leaders to understand this situation through confronting all the attempts, because imperialist plans should not be considered as our destiny. He also greeted the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied homeland and said that our people in the occupied land extended assistance to us during our sieges. He pointed out that the recent Islamic summit established the PLO's legitimate leadership and granted it new strength.

Colonel Na'im al-Khatib, commander in chief of the Badr forces, also delivered a speech in which he praised Jordan's honorable position, under His Majesty King Husayn, toward the bloody events to which the Palestinian people were exposed in northern Lebanon. He also expressed appreciation for the Jordanian media, which provided a brave platform aimed at unveiling the real positions of the 20th century cowards who killed and tortured our people and attacked their people.

Al-Khatib said that nobody can bypass the ties that exist between the one Jordanian-Palestinian people, and the unity and cohesion of those people will rise above some people's theoretical postiions. He denounced the conspiracies to which the PLO was exposed and called for settling the differences in the Palestinian institutions through democratic dialogue and for continuing at the same time to aim the Palestinian rifle at Israel. He greeted the Badr forces, which were and continue to be ready to defend the Palestinian people and to be martyred for the sake of the land. He also greeted the kinfolk in the occupied land.

'Arafat inspected the Badr forces and attended military training exercises that show the preparedness of these forces. He and his companions had lunch with the officers and soldiers. He also presented some medals and souvenirs to some of them. Attending the celebrations were Shawkat Akhmud, occupied territory affairs minister; the representative of the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; and a group of people from the groupings, camps, and Palestinian Bedouin tribes.

'Arafat Receives Canadians

JN281011 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Amman, 28 Feb (PETRA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received at his place of residence this morning the Canadian parliamentary delegation which is currently visiting Jordan. 'Arafat briefed the delegation on Israel's violations of Palestinian rights, its arbitrary measures aimed at confiscating the land and emptying it of its Arab inhabitants, and its crimes against the Palestinian people. Through a review of the Palestinian question's history, 'Arafat exposed the Israeli intentions to obliterate the Palestinian people's identity and sieze their entire national soil. 'Arafat called on the Canadian delegation to pressure its government to change its stand and to take into consideration the Palestinian Arab people's historical rights in their land.

Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, attended the meeting.

Joint Delegations Formed

GF281942 Doha QNA in Arabic 1838 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Amman, 28 Feb (QNA) — Informed sources in Amman said that joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations will soon visit a number of Arab states to explain the situation in the occupied Arab territories. The sources told the QNA correspondent in Amman that these delegations will hold talks with officials of these countries on the necessity of securing the means of steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland in light of the increasing Zionist banishment of Arab citizens. The delegations will also discuss the commitment to implement the Baghdad summit resolutions regarding the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting steadfastness and providing the necessary allotments for the fund of support that stems from this committee.

The sources indicated that the formation of these delgations comes in light of what has emerged during the Jordanian-Palestian talks currently taking place with regard to the necessity of blostering steadfastness in the occupied homeland.

JORDAN TIMES Report
JN290813 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Feb 84 pp 1, 3

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman — Intensified moves by representatives from the Israeli-occupied West Bank to press ahead with talks aimed at reaching a joint Jordanian-Palestinian framework in efforts for Middle East peace characterised Tuesday, the thied day of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's current visit to Jordan to resume the dialogue.

The highlight of these moves was a meeting between Mr. 'Arafat and about 42 personalities from the West Bank, who arrived in Amman Monday to urge the PLO and Jordan to reach an agreement on future joint political moves. The delegation submitted a memorandum to Mr. 'Arafat urging him to co-ordinate PLO moves with Jordan "to liberate the West Bank from the Israeli occupation before it is too late."

No information was disclosed on the memorandum, but Mr. Anwar al-Khatib, a former governor of Jerusalem, told the *JORDAN TIMES* that "the delegation has no specific strategy or peace plan in mind to impose upon Jordan and the PLO." He added: "We want both sides to work together because Jordan and the PLO are the parties which have the right to determine the destiny of the land and people of the West Bank."

Other members in the delegation echoed Mr. al-Khatib's statement asserting that "the PLO and Jordan are asked to take joint practical steps in efforts to save the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Dr. Yasir 'Ubayd, from Jerusalem, said that no immediate results are anticipated in the current round of talks, but "moving is better than the current stalemate we are in." Mr. Wa'il Hijazi, from Hebron, said that in the absence of an Arab military option an acceptance of a political solution will undermine israeli justifications to invade Arab countries "to maintain its security." A delegation member, who asked not to be identified, said that "the military option would have been the best solution but looking for a solution through peaceful means is also a form of struggle."

The delegation, which comprises five mayors including Bethlehem mayor is expected to meet His Majesty King Husayn soon to submit a similar memorandum.

The delegates told the *JORDAN TIMES* that they represent the majority of the population in the West Bank and Gaza.

"There is no consensus in the occupied Arab territories on the resumption of Jordan-PLO talks, but those who reject them are a minority which is instigated by Palestinian radicals and communists," a delegate who asked not to be named, said.

A Palestinian source here dismissed the opposition to the Jordan-PLO talks as "meaningless" as long as "there is a practical peace plan offered to Jordan or the PLO."

Secrecy continued to surround the talks, but the sources said that there are two points that the two sides agree upon that can provide a scope for future joint political section.

They said that the inclusion of the Soviet Union in any peace effort within the framework of an international peace conference and pushing for an effective European role in the peace efforts are two points which Jordan and the PLO have called for an separate occasions and can provide a ground for joint action.

Asked about the form that joint political action would take, the sources said: "The seven-man Arab team formed at the Arab summit at the Moroccan city of Fes in 1982, is still a vitable option."

The seven-member Arab team, which includes Jordan, the PLO, Syria, Algiers, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and Morocco, was formed to explain to major world countries an Arab peace plan adopted at Fes. The plan calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO and implicitly recognises the right of Israel to exist.

An agreement that might be reached by both sides, however, has to be endoresed by the Fatah Central Committee and other Palestinian factions. Differences between Fatah and the other factions have emerged in the aftermath of the unexpected visit of Mr. 'Arafat to Egypt and efforts to patch up the differences have not succeeded so far.

Palestinian sources told the *JORDAN TIMES* that the controversy over Mr. 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and relations between the different Palestinian factions were the centre of a three-hour meeting Monday between the PLO chairman and most of the 60 Palestine National Council (PNC) members living in Amman.

A statement issued in Amman last December and signed by 34 PNC members condemned Mr. 'Arafat's visit to Cairo as "a deviation from the PLO revolutionary line." The sources said that during the meeting Mr. 'Arafat explained that his visit did not violate the Palestinian movement and was actually in accordance with PLO Executive Committee resolutions which empower him to take the necessary steps for the return of Egypt to the Arab world and to unbind it from "the chains of the Camp David accords."

The *JORDAN TIMES* has learnt that both the Popular front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the biggest organisations after Fatah, under the PLO umbrella, have formulated a joint working paper that include the factions' conditions for reconciliation with the Fatah movement. According to the source the paper that will be submitted to the Fatah Central Committee includes three points:

—A call on the Fatah Central Committee to reiterate commitment to the 1978 Baghdad summit resolutions binding Arab countries and the PLO to boycott Egypt in the aftermath of its

signing the Camp David agreement with Israel.

—A commitment not to deputise or to grant a mandate to any Arab country to talk on behalf of the Palestinians in any peace negotiation.

—Guarantees from Central Committee to prevent any violation of Palestinian resolutions and to enhance the collective leadership of the PLO.

Both organisations have opposed the ongoing talks in Amman, and the sources said that the DFLP "is basically opposed to the unclear basis of the talks." A reason that was cited by Palestinian sources here also apply on four Fatah Central Committee members "who expressed serious reservations on the current talks."

But, this was denied by Fatah officials here who stressed the failure future of Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO Political Department, to come to Jordan for the talks "has no political significance." They said that Mr. Qaddumi could joint the PLO team because of ill health.

The talks continue Wednesday.

Palestinian sources told the *JORDAN TIMES* Monday that in the ongoing talks, the PLO is determined to focus on points that unify the two positions and not on points of differences. They explained that the differences are "clear to both sides and therefore they (the differences) should not disrupt relations." The sources added that despite differences "there is a scope of joint political action."

Mr. 'Arafat Tuesday received in his residence a number of dignitaries from Jerusalem and delegations representing refugee camps in Jordan, in addition to the delegation from the West Bank.

Later the PLO chairman received presidents of Jordanian doctors, pharmacists and tentists associations.

Mr. 'Arafat also received Mr. Nabil Badr, who is in charge of Egyptians' interests in Jordan.

Italian Ambassador to Jordan Marquis Fabrizio also visited Mr. 'Arafat and delivered a message from the Italian Government.

Mr. 'Arafat and the king are expected to hold another round of talks Wednesday or Thursday. The two leaders will also attend a military display to be presented by units of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Joint Statement Expected

JN290835 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will hold a meeting today to resume Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B has learned that the current talks will be crowned with the issuance of a joint statement that will define the dimensions of the one march which seeks to bolster the steadfastness of the kinfolks in the occupied territories, foil enemy schemes, and outline a unified stand that will be capable of dealing with the current situation.

Commenting on the features, prospects, and results of the talks, Minister of Occupied Territories Shawkat Mahmud told the press in the guest palace: The broad smiles on all the faces are the most eloquent expression of what is taking place in the service of the Arab nation's supreme interest.

Al-Masri Backs Talks

JN281314 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — Hikmat al-Masri, first vice president of the Senate, who arrived in Amman within a popular delegation from the West Bank, has said that the meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is being closely followed by Palestinians everywhere, especially those in the occupied areas, because it might produce historic decisions backing the Palestine question and moving it toward a just solution so as to end the tragedy of the Palestinian people in the occupied areas.

Al-Masri affirmed that all factions of the Palestinian people support Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion and seek a just solution to the Palestine question.

Al-Masri said: We hope this cohesion will deepen. We will strongly support it until we attain our objectives of liberating the land and reaching a just settlement.

Al-Masri also said: The current deadlock is devastating, and if it continues, it will have bad consequences on our people in the occupied territory. This is because Israel's settlement policy continues. This is a grave policy even if it continues for a short period. We cannot keep the question deadlocked, because time is not on our side. We came to Amman to appeal to his Majesty King Husayn and Brother Abu 'Ammar to seriously consider the danger threatening the occupied territory.

Al-Masri added: I am certain that His Majesty King Husayn and Brother Abu 'Ammar sincerely believe that cohesion, harmony, and closing of ranks are basic conditions for saving the occupied territory.

Bethlehem Mayor Interviewed

JN281137 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Feb 84 p 3

[By 'Afifah A. Kaluti]

[Text] Amman — The Mayor of Bethlehem, Eliyas Frayj, Monday called on Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to form a joint political framework which would include a political dialogue with all parties concerned including Israel to solve the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Frayj, who arrived in Amman Monday en route to Australia, the U.S., England, and France whose governments have issued official invitations to him to visit, warned that time is working against the Palestinians and a lack of joint political movement would continue to create more obstacles to a comprehensive solution as manifested in Israel's stepped up settlement policy.

"If we lose the land, what will be left to negotiate about?" he said.

The mayor told the *JORDAN TIMES* that the Middle East conflict cannot be solved through military means but only through political talks, mutual recognition by the PLO and Israel and negotiations between the two.

Mr. Frayj said that what is tragic about Arab thinking is that we expect an Israeli initiative to solve the Palestinian issue. "This will never happen and thus we have to face reality and challenge Israel with peace intentions," he said.

He went on to say that the Arabs should convince world public opinion of the seriousness of their political dialogue and political negotiations should be directed at reaching a political solution and ensuring security for all the peoples of the region.

Asked what will be the case if Israel refuses to enter peace negotiations, Mr. Frayj said that world public opinion would totally condemn the Israeli policy.

Mr. Frayj said that the Arab differences must disappear because "they only serve Israel's interests and policies, and hence enable it to continue its dominance over the occupied Arab territories and consequently to Judaise them with a view to annex the Arab lands to the state of Israel."

A rebellion inside Fatah (PLO Chairman 'Arafat's power base) which erupted last May and the unexpected visit of the PLO chairman to Cairo last December have provoked a controversy about his leadership of the organisation.

But Mr. Frayj expressed strong support for Mr. 'Arafat's leadership and maintained that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

"People in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have for him the highest consideration and respect and we wish him sincerity and understanding in forging a new co-operation with His Majesty King Husayn."

Mr. 'Arafat said Sunday that Jordanians and Palestinians are one family and that the members of one family are partners in danger and fate, Mr. Frayj reminded.

On the reaction of the people under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the Jordanian-PLO talks which started Sunday, Mr. Frayj said that there is a "near consensus" supporting the talks. Calls had been issued to both parties urging the necessity of reaching a joint agreement because the failure of the talks, which were terminated last April, "adversely affected the morale of the citizens who cannot take any further such shocks," he said.

Mr. Frayj, before leaving Amman Friday for Australia, will meet several officials in Jordan.

Mr. Frayj's tour will last for almost two months during which he will meet foreign ministers of the countries to which he will visit as well as with other high-ranking officials. Discussion with them, he said, will focus on the Palestinian situation under occupation and the people's future aspirations.

E. Jerusalem Official's Remarks

JN281243 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — Anwar al-Khatib, governor of [East] Jerusalem, has affirmed that the conditions in the occupied Arab territories are cuasing concern in view of Israel's continuation of its settlement policy.

In a statement to *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*, Al-Khatib said Israel is continuing with its plans to confiscate Arab lands and build settlements on them.

Al-Khatib said that Israel is continuing this settlement policy despite the bad economic conditions and the deficit in its balance of payments because of the big financial support it is getting from the Jewish Agency.

All indications, Al-Khatib added, are that Israel has so far confiscated more than 60 percent of the land in the occupied West Bank. The number of Jewish settlers also continues to increase. There are now more than 30,000 Jewish settlers in the occupied territory, he said.

Al-Khatib explained that the increase in the number of Jewish settlers will create a major obstacle to the efforts to achieve peace in the region.

Al-Khatib also confirmed that the number of Jewish settlers in occupied Arab Jerusalem has reached 115,000. Recently, Israel confiscated more than 20,000 dunums of land in the Jerusalem area for settlement purposes.

Al-Khatib said that the painful and tragic situation experienced by the West Bank people has prompted many of them to take joint action to inform officials so that they will make the necessary political decision concerning the situation in the West Bank and Gaza. Al-Khatib added that he came to Amman within a popular delegation from the West Bank and Gaza to submit a document to His Majesty King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat informing them of the situation in the occupied territory.

Al-Khatib said: We are not bringing any specific proposals. We are only bringing our cause, which is a question of a struggle for survival.

Amman Radio Commentary

JN281712 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1620 GMT 28 Feb 84

["Today's Talk"]

[Text] The Jordanian-Palestinian summit talks are continuing with the aim of achieving the desired objectives toward the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian understanding of the bases on which future bilateral relations should be based. The two sides are expected to lay down a joint background of the principles of joint dialogue on the basis of a reciprocal confidence, frankness, and sincerity so that it can be a solid groundwork for a detailed discussion on the various aspects of the fraternal relations linking the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

Although the current talks are focusing on the future of bilateral relations, the developments of the Palestine question, and the bolstering of the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories, joint Jordanian-Palestinian action falls within the framework of confronting the Israeli plans aimed at evacuating the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories and at imposing the policy of fait accompli. This fact indicates the importance of Jordanian-Palestinian understanding at this particular stage with the purpose of finding a basis for movement on the Arab and international levels in order to guarantee the joint objectives of preserving the Arabism of the occupied territory and the identity of the Palestinian people under the Israeli occupation.

The Arab and world reaction to the Jordanian-Palestinian summit constitutes a real test of the ability of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples to shoulder their responsibilities and to respond to their joint aspirations, or their inability to assert themselves in the current struggle vis-a-vis the destiny of the land and kinfok in the occupied Palestinian territory. Jordan is not a mediator in the Palestine question, but a partner and a basic side to it. This is what those far and near should understand. Jordan insists on the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking and respects the will of the Palestinian people in a manner that maintains the independence of its own decision and the freedom of its will.

In view of this objective understanding of the role of each of the two sides, all obstacles hampering understanding between brothers can be eliminated. Consequently, it will be easier to regulate relations between the two sides toward all that affects the daily life of the two peoples both at present and in the future. Hence, the liberation of land and salvation of kinfolk occupy the first rank in the fields where coordiantion between the Jordanian and Palestinian should be established. This is the basic issue which reflects either negatively or psotively on our daily life and on the future of the Jordanian and Palestinian generations alike.

Gaza Mayor Denied Departure for Amman

JN281049 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Feb 84 p 26

[Text] Amman — The Zionist occupation authorities have prevented Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa from leaving for Amman to participate with the occupied territories' delegation in expressing its viewpoint to the Palstinian and Jordanian leaderships, which are currently meeting in Amman on a summit level.

The Zionist authorities have also prevented other Palestinian personalities from participating in the delegation.

AR-RA'Y: 'Encouraging Results' in Oil Prospecting

JN281720 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — The team engaged in oil prospecting in Jordan has achieved satisfactory results from the Qarma oil well in Al-Azraq region. The final test on oil well No 8 in Wadi Rajil is due to be carried out today.

It has been learned that the semifinal results of the prospecting operations will be announced very soon. The results indicate that more than 600 barrels of oil a day are gushing naturally from the Qarma well. This quantity could go up to 1,000 barrels a day. This, of course, is in addition to the quantities which will be obtained from other wells now being drilled in the same region, which has now been established as an oil basin. Oil wells will be drilled at 1,700 meters apart to prevent interference with production.

It has been learned that the wells that will be drilled in this basin are expected to produce very encouraging results with a very high economic feasibility.

Official Statement on Al-Jumayyil's Syria Visit

NC291019 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil left B'abda Palace for Damascus at 1030 to hold a summit conference. During this conference he will hold talks regarding the entire Lebanese situation and the course Lebanon is to take to cancel the 17 May accord. The following statement was issued by the directorate general of the president's office:

Today, 29 February, His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil left Lebanese territory for Damascus to meet with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. The president is accompanied by His Excellency Dr Elie Salim, foreign and expatriates affairs minister, and Brigadier General 'Uthman 'Uthman, Internal Security Forces director general.

Before leaving for Damascus, President al-Jumayyil contacted Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan by telephone and discussed the current situation and the file on the Damascus talks.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan received at his house this morning adviser Muhammad Shuqayr, President al-Jumayyil's envoy, for the same purpose.

RFL: Others in Delegation

NC290852 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil left B'abda Palace at 1000 en route to Damascus for a summit meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Accompanying President al-Jumayyil are Foreign Minister Salim, Jean 'Ubayd, [Phalange Party] Politicial Bureau member Joseph Hashim, and Brigadier General 'Uthman 'Uthman.

Al-Hariri To Participate

NC282001 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] It was learned tonight that Rafiq al-Hariri contacted [Foreign] Minister Elie Salim more than once today regarding the consolidation of the cease-fire. The Saudi mediator told the Lebanese minister that he will not come to Beirut but will be in Damascus to participate in preparations for convening the Lebanese-Syrian summit.

We note here that diplomatic sources expect Minister Salim to go to the Syrian capital tomorrow.

PSP Radio's Announcement

NC290440 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Amin al-Jumayyil will visit Syria within the next 48 hours to declare there the abrogation of the 17 May accord.

Sham'un, Pierre al-Jumayyil Comment

NC291039 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] [Former] President Camille Sham'un has stressed that President Amin al-Jumayyil will not be lenient during the negotiations which will take place in Damascus today regarding the sovereignty, pride, and absolute independence of Lebanon whatever the pressures. He expressed hope that the negotiations will stop the current war, killing, and devastation, which no country or people in the world have borne.

Camille Sham'un abstained from the Lebanese Front meeting, which was attended by Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram, and Edward Hunayn. Following the meeting, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said that the Christians are supposed to be heroes, to remain firm in their stand, and to insist on Lebanon's sovereignty and independence despite all tragedies.

Al-Jumayyil added: Despite all that has befallen and is befalling them, the Christians are seeking to preserve their lives and pride, although they are living in fear about their fate. He said: I believe salvation is possible. We have given confidence to President Amin al-Jumayyil, whom no one can surpass in his love for Lebanon and its pride. I wish him success in his task at a time when Lebanon is heading toward the danger of partition. Lebanon was a meeting place of civilizations and religions. Can we keep the Lebanese people's faith in their homeland after this faith has been shaken?

Further on Sham'un Stand

NC282045 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] [Former] President Sham'un tonight commented on the reports about President al-Jumayyil's visit to Damascus. Sham'un defined his position toward the current course of matters in three points:

1. President al-Jumayyil should not visit Damascus. No negotiations should take place in Damascus since Syria has ignored the simplest duties toward the Lebanese Government. This is not only meant to protect national dignity, but also to guarantee that the negotiations are conducted freely and without any suspicions. If a meeting is needed between the representatives of both countries, let such a meeting take place in Geneva, a place of freedom and neutrality.

2. The 17 May agreement should not be unilaterally abrogated. This agreement is a trilateral one; it carries the signature of a legitimate Lebanese representative and was ratified by the Cabinet and the Chamber of Deputies — a body which enjoys legislative and constitutional powers.

3. The Syrian forces should first withdraw from all Lebanese territory. This withdrawal should be accompanied by the withdrawal of the mercenaries, Palestinians, Libyans, and Iranians affiliated with the Syrian forces.

President Sham'un said that if these points are not heeded, he will withdraw his confidence in the government, break with it, and not take part in any forthcoming government or recognize such a government. Similarly, he will not take part in any forthcoming conference, be it in Geneva or elswhere.

Sham'un underscored that this is a final decision. He saluted the Lebanese Army for the efforts and sacrifices which it makes daily with the same valiance as the forefathers — the forefathers who struggled for ages so that Lebanon could keep its head raised and remain a sovereign and independent country.

Sham'un Receives Message From Al-Jumayyil

NC291205 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] [Former] President Camille Sham'un today received General Ibrahim Tannus, who handed him a message from President Amin al-Jumayyil. The content of the message has not been disclosed.

Wadi' Haddad Briefs Al-Jumayyil on Washington Talks

NC281222 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Dr Wadi' Haddad, presidential adviser for national affairs, returned to Beirut today following talks in Washington. Haddad briefed the president on the outcome of his talks and on his meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz.

Afram Calls for Ratifying 17 May Agreement

NC281214 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram, in a statement to U.S. and French television, emphasized the need to ratify the 17 May agreement. He said: We are against abrogating it because this would mean submission to Syrian domination. He stressed the need to create an independent and free Lebanon that is not subject to Syrian control.

Afram on Syrian Pressure

NC291222 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram believes that President al-Jumayyil does not have the means to secure guarantees from Syria in return for abrogating the 17 May agreement. For this reason, Afram said, we advised President al-Jumayyil to reject the Syrian conditions. He further said: We as Lebanese Forces are ready to confront any Syrian military pressure in order to give President al-Jumayyil the ability to face this pressure. Thus, if the Army falls or is dispersed in several areas, we will be ready to do our utmost so that President al-Jumayyil will not be forced to give in to the Syrians.

Afram further said: We as Lebanese Forces have not resisted for 9 years or offered thousands of martyrs so that we will now capitulate to Syria. He stressed that the 17 May agreement can no longer be implemented; it has become a symbol for the government's freedom in this part of the free world. The Syrian insistence on abrogating this agreement simply means that Lebanon has no right to select any political option without going through Damascus. He believes that the abrogation of this agreement will be the beginning of handing over the government and all Lebanese political decisions to Syria.

Franjiyah on 17 May Accord, Saudi Mediation

NC281247 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah said President al-Asad's envoy, who visited the north yesterday, briefed him about the latest developments resulting from the Syrian-Saudi mediation. He said: If what we were briefed on is implemented, then it will become possible for all Lebanese to entertain hope that their freedom and sovereignty will be recovered from the usurper; that is, the Israeli enemy. This signifies the abrogation of the agreement imposed on us with the force of arms.

President Franjiyah made the above statement at the beginning of the news conference he held this morning in his palace in Zgharta.

He said: We now live with the hope that the Syrian-Saudi mediation will be successful, because the purpose behind this mediation is to preserve a united Lebanon — one people and one land. He also welcomed the statements issued by the conferees in Dar al-Ifta' and by the convention of the spiritual leaders in the Beirut Greek Orthodox Bishopric. President Franjiyah said: The two statements will serve as a working paper for the second Dialogue Conference, if this conference is held.

He lauded the township of Ma'rakah and the southerners for their steadfastness and for their teaching the Israeli enemy a lesson in defending dignity, sovereignty, and freedom.

Replying to a question on how the process of abrogating the agreement can be carried out, he said: Abrogating the agreement requires nothing other than a decision by the head of state, to be signed by the head of state, and to be announced by the head of state.

With regard to the security experiment in West Beirut, President Franjiyah said: The accounts we receive of this experience say it is an example that the government must follow. He noted the enlightenment campaign that Nabih Birri is launching, as well as the cooperation among the Amal Movement, the 6th Brigade, and the Internal Security Forces — a dutiful and complete cooperation that seeks to ensure the citizens' comfort and safety night and day.

Shams ad-Din Meets Soviet Ambassador Soldatov

NC291236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, has asked Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov about the Soviet Union's stand on the draft resolution before the UN Security Council. This resolution calls for substituting UN forces for the Multinational Force in Lebanon.

Shaykh Shams ad-Din received Ambassador Soldatov at 1000 today. The Soviet ambassador was accompanied by a number of senior officials of the Soviet Embassy in Beirut. During the 2-hour meeting, a review was made of the general Lebanese situation, its developments, its expected developments, its interaction with the regional situation, and local, regional, and international efforts that are being made to end the crisis.

Shaykh Shams ad-Din communicated to the Soviet ambassador the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council's position. The Council wants the UN forces deploy in all of the south and all along the coastal road linking the south with Beirut. They want UN forces in all of Greater Beirut as well.

Shaykh Shams ad-Din emphasized the need for UN forces to have an effective presence and to be in sufficient numbers. He also stressed the need for these forces to be liaison forces among the Lebanese and to safeguard Lebanese territory as well as the unity of Lebanon's territory, people, and institutions.

Ambassador Soldatov showed understanding of his eminence's viewpoint, which he will convey to his government.

Higher Liaison Body Committee Holds Meeting

NC281741 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The political committee of the Higher Liaison Body held its regular meeting at the Presidential Palace today. Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, the ambassadors of Britain and Italy, the charges d'affaires of the U.S. and French Embassies, commanders of the Multinational Force, the Lebanese Officers Group, and Coordinator General Brigadier General Antoine Barakat attended the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting Staff Colonel Victor Rahmah, chief of the Operations Room at the Presidential Palace, reviewed the security situation in the various Lebanese areas. He referred to the continuous violation of the cease-fire and the shelling of residential areas which causes the fall of innocent victims. He also referred to the security and political practices and moves in the south.

Foreign Minister Salim then reviewed the general political situation and the fateful challenges Lebanon is confronting. Dr Salim then referred to the UN force currently being discussed in UN forums and in decisionmaking capitals. He said he is continuing his contacts and efforts to achieve this objective.

Beirut Radio on 28 Feb Security Situation

NC281755 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Clashes on the axes of Beirut intensified this afternoon following relative calm this morning. Artillery fire was exchanged on the axes of Ra's an-Nab', Sodeco, Al-Barjawi, and the commercial markets. Rocket shells exploded in the skies of East and West Beirut.

Clashes had earlier occurred along the Old Sidon-At-Tayyunah road in the southern suburb. Shells landed on As'ad al-'As'ad Street, Ash-Shiyah, Furn ash-Shubbak, and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. Unofficial reports say two persons were wounded.

In the mountain area the opposite positions exchanged artillery and machinegun fire. Shells fell on 'Alayh, Baysur, 'Aytat, and Suq al-Gharb. The shelling extended at noon to include Al-Hazimiyah, Galerie Sim'an, and Mar Mikha'il.

Warplanes overflew the capital and Beirut at a high altitude at 0900. The warplanes' identity could not be ascertained.

Muslim Leaders Discuss Developments 28 Feb

NC281849 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] A meeting was held tonight at the residence of [former] Prime Minister Rashid as-Sulh. In addition to Rashid as-Sulh, the meeting was attended by [former] Prime Ministers Taqiyy ad-Din as-Sulh and Salim al-Huss, former Ministers Khalid Junblatt, Malik Salam, and Nasib al-Barbir; Amal Movement Leader Nabih Birri; Muhsin Dallul, deputy leader of the Progressive Socialist Party; and 'Abdallah al-Amin and Haytham Jum'ah. Political and security developments were discussed.

Speaking on behalf of the conferees, after the meeting, Prime Minister Rashid as-Sulh said: Tonight's gathering was held within the framework of the meetings to coordinate Islamic and national stands under the present circumstances through which Lebanon is passing.

The conferees discussed the developments on all levels. They contemplated in particular the steadfastness of our brothers in the south, which has assumed a heroic form, and the need to support and back them in their uprising for the sake of their dignity and that of Lebanon. The conferees consider this resistance as the only correct alternative to the 17 May agreement.

As-Sulh added: The conferees then dealt with the national and historic resolutions issued from the mufti's house on 23 February 1984. These resolutions express most sincerely the views of all the nationalists in Lebanon.

As-Sulh further said: The conferees decided it was necessary to consolidate the cease-fire on all fronts and to deal with the conditions in the residential areas there, particularly the Ra's an-Nab' area. They also considered it necessary to speed up the implementation of the arrangements putting an end to the present conditions in these areas and restoring normality.

The conferees emphasized the necessity to resume the operation of the vital utilities in the country, particularly Beirut port and airport. They decided to demand the authorities concerned to adopt all measures leading to the resumption of the operation of these two vital utilities as soon as possible.

In conclusion, As-Sulh said: The conferees discussed in detail what is being leaked about initiatives guaranteeing the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. They considered it necessary to speed up the abrogation of this agreement in accordance with the view declared in the recent statement issued by the mufti's office.

Amal's Nabih Birri Interviewed by AL-MAJALLAH

PM291257 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 25 Feb-2 Mar 84 pp 12-13

[Interview with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri by Salih Qallab in Damascus — date not given]

[Text] Question: Does the Amal Movement still insist on President Amin al-Jumayyil's resignation?

Answer: First of all, I must explain an important point. The Amal Movement wants President Amin al-Jumayyil to resign, rather than be deposed. There is a difference. Deposing him means forcing him out. Resignation means that he voluntarily steps down in response to to the wishes of Lebanese public opinion. For our part we urged the president to resign after the abominable crime committed against our people in the southern suburb. As is customary in democratic countries, the official in charge must bear the responsibility for any development in his country, especially at that level. In our opinion, the president of the republic is responsible for the destruction inflicted on that suburb. That is why we are calling for his resignation in accordance with legal and constitutional principles. We have not staged a coup d'etat against the president, but we hold him responsible for what has happened and is happening in the country.

Question: But under the circumstances such a resignation could create a vacuum. Should President al-Jumayyil agree to resign, do you have an alternative candidate?

Answer: If the resignation is, as we request, voluntary, then there will be no such vacuum because the president will remain in his place until the Chamber of Deputies elects a new president. When we talk about the Chamber of Deputies, we mean the present one because parliamentary elections under the present circumstances are inconceivable. We explained our views at the beginning of the recent events. We said that the presidential term of office could be reduced to 2 years during which a new president would be elected. We know that under Lebanese law a president of the republic cannot be a candidate for a second successive term, but we agree to grant the current president that right in order to give him a chance to demonstrate good will.

As regards an alternative candidate, the Amal has no specific name. All we are interested in and want is a president for all Lebanon, not a partisan. We would oppose and resist a partisan presidential candidate even if he happened to be a member of the Amal Movement itself.

Question: Lebanese Army Chief of Staff General Nadim al-Hakim, who has joined the opposition, is holding contacts aimed at setting up a new army. Is the Amal Movement in favor of disbanding the present Army and setting up a new one to take its place?

Answer: When the Amal appealed to the honorable men in the Army to disobey their superiors and not to participate in the crime, it had no intention of breaking up or dividing the Army. We therefore emphasize that the Army units deployed in West Beirut are an integral party of the Lebanese Army. The reforms we are advocating should also apply to the Army so that it can be a balanced army and an army for all the Lebanese people.

Question: But there seem to be some differences between you and the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] on this particular point.

Answer: There is no disagreement whatsoever between us and the PSP or the National Salvation Front. We are agreed on everything, even on some details.

Question: Some reports speak of the return of Palestinians to West Beirut. It has also been claimed that some Palestinian organizations have reoccupied their offices in the area.

Answer: That is absolutely untrue. We invite anyone interested in verifying what we say to come and see for himself. There are no Palestinian offices in West Beirut or the areas under our control.

Question: But according to some reports, a meeting was held in West Beirut between you and Abu Salih [Fatah dissident Nimr Salih].

Answer: That also is untrue. During the brief period of vacuum which followed the Army's departure from West Beirut, Abu Salih managed to infiltrate the area. He only spent a few hours there and then left. He has not returned since. I assure you that during these few hours he did not meet with any Amal Movement official. On this occasion and on behalf of the Amal Movement, I ask our Palestinian brothers to leave to us the honor of defending our domestic causes. We need the PLO's political support but we do not need any combat or military support. The Palestinian brothers should rest assured that we consider their cause to be our cause and that we will continue to support that cause, but we appeal to them again to leave it to us to shoulder the responsibility of handling our own national affairs.

Question: What is your attitude toward the proposed solutions, especially the eight-point plan?

Answer: We have rejected that plan because, first of all, it is not a plan and, second, because it is not, as the regime tried to suggest, a Saudi plan. The eight points represent the views of the president of the republic and his group. We believe that these points have been overtaken by events.

Question: You reject the 17 May agreement. Would you agree to a modification of the Lebanese-Israeli armistice agreement?

Answer: The Lebanese-Israeli agreement was stillborn. We are now looking into the question of its burial. After the burial we can discuss any other alternative, including modification of the armistice agreement.

Question: You have raised the reform slogan and made it a condition for the government. What reform do you have in mind?

Answer: We submitted a working paper to the Geneva conference. It was a Lebanese working paper. In it we urged final abolition of political factionalism so that efficiency may take the place of sectarian affiliation and so that every Lebanese may have the right to nominate himself for the post of prime minister or any other major post.

Maronite Leader Blames U.S. for Beirut Crisis

PM290856 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 22 Feb 84 p 7

[Interview with Na'um Farah, "foreign minister of the Lebanese Forces," by Aldo Sofia in Beirut on 20 February]

[Text] East Beriut, 20 Feb — "Who can say what will happen now? Will there be another long war? Will Lebanon be partitioned? Will there be a federal system? Or will there be a definitive Syrian occupation? Nobody is in a position to make predictions. Only one thing is certain: This is a colossal political defeat for the West, which did not have the courage to oppose the radical and extremist forces working in the Arab world." Na'um Farah is the "foreign minister" of the "Lebanese Forces" — the right-wing Maronite front dominated by the Phalangists which includes Sham'un's "liberals" and Etienne Saqr's "Guardians of the Cedars"; in short, the part of Christian Lebanon defeated in the recent Beirut battle.

"Yes, but it only looks like a defeat," he continued. "Without the aid of Syria, Libya, Iran, and the Palestinians, neither Jublatt's Druze nor Birri's Shi'ites could have won. However, nothing is definitive or irreversible. We have been fighting for a decade. And in 1975 and 1976 we experienced even more difficult situations than this. We are determined to fight to the end to defend the Christian community and Lebanon's independence from Syria's annexationist plans."

Question: But the Phalangists have fought alongside an Army which is, above all, accused of being "Phalangized."

Answer: That is not true. The Lebanese Army is multiconfessional. And you will see that it is certainly not an Army which has been finally defeated. It is still fighting. Moreover, we Phalangists did not take part in this last battle in Beirut. Of course, we are paying for the mistakes of U.S. policy. It is a very inconsistent and very confused policy. It is a great disappointment to us!

Question: What consequences will this U.S. failure have?

Answer: On this point we agree with our enemies. The loss of faith in the United States in all the moderate Arab countries, from the Gulf to the Maghreb, is striking. People like King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Husayn of Jordan, or even King Hassan of Morocco, who regarded America as a reliable ally, certainly cannot feel calm.

Question: What will happen in the field following the Multinational Force's withdrawal?

Answer: The Multinational Force did not take part in the fighting; we always fought alone. We will continue to do so, even if we feel very much more alone after the Western disengagement. This disengagement can be explained solely by U.S. domestic policy motives or, in Italy's case, by the conflicts which have emerged in the government coalition on the policy to be followed in Lebanon. We would certainly have preferred greater coordination among the countries in the multinational peacekeeping force. However, we will continue to defend ourselves as we have done in the past 10 years.

Question: Even with Israel's help?

Answer: No, we simply say that an independent Lebanon must have good relations with all its neighbors, and hence with Israel and the Jewish population.

Question: People say that Shamir has abandoned you.

Answer: Nobody has abandoned us. We can count on our forces.

Question: So, do you deny that the Phalangists have asked the Israelis for help in the past few days?

Answer: I cannot answer you. These are problems which are beyond even the needs and requirements of information...."

Question: There is the danger of massacres, and of the destruction of the Christian civilization in Lebanon in face of the Islamic radical thrust.

Answer: Junblatt has destroyed around 60 Christian villages, and in the Ash-Shuf he has already massacred several hundred innocent Christians. Things could be even worse in the future.

Question: Might not Amin al-Jumayyil's resignation offer a glimmer of hope?

Answer: Nobody is talking about it. Al-Jumayyil is president and must remain president. He is the symbol of Lebanese unity. We are not opposing his resignation only because he is a Phalangist. Back in 1958 we opposed Sham'un's departure, and in 1966 that of Franjiyah, who is now with the opposition. No, it is a matter of principle. Amin al-Jumayyil represents the country's unity and integrity. After him there would be chaos and Lebanon would fall into Syria's hands.

Question: Do you at least recognize the Arab nature of Lebanon, which was consecrated in Geneva?

Answer: As long as the Muslims persist in thinking that Arab nature means Islam, we will oppose that formula. Lebanon's Arab nature is valid only as a cultural reference point. But there has hitherto been confusion between Arab nature and pan-Islamism. Moreover, in Geneva nobody asked that Lebanon should become Arab!

Question: Is there still a chance of a political solution?

Answer: We say there is. And we pose two conditions: first, that there should be no more talk of Al-Jumayyil's resignation; second, that all the foreign military forces — Syrians, Israelis, Palestinians, and Iranians — should leave Lebanon at the same time. Then it will be possible to discuss everything. We are opposed to concessions, but we are prepared to compromise. We say that the 1943 pact must be maintained because it guarantees peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims, but its implementation must certainly be reviewed. Hence we are prepared for institutional, political, and administrative reforms. Of course, the head of state will always have to be a Maronite — not because we want to defend that privilege at all costs, but because it is the guarantee of the survival of the Christians and their culture in this country.

VOL: Muslim Brotherhood Raids Syrian Army Convoy
NC271838 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Arrivals from Syria reported that a group of Muslim Brotherhood members attacked a Syrian Army convoy in Al-Barudiyah quarter [city not named], killing an officer and wounding seven soldiers. They added that the Syrian Forces subsequently cordoned off Al-Barudiyah quarter and detained a number of people.

Lebanese President Arrives, Begins Talks With Al-Asad
JN291237 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Damascus — Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Damascus at 1230 today on a visit to Syria. He is accompanied by a delegation composed of: Elie Salim, minister of foreign affairs; Dan 'Ubayd, adviser to the president; Brig Gen 'Uthman 'Uthman, acting director general of the internal security forces; and Michel Samaha, adviser to President al-Jumayyil.

President al-Asad headed those who received the Lebanese president at Damascus International Airport. After the reception ceremony, the two presidents rode in an official motorcade to the guest palace, where they held their first meeting in the presence of Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr Elie Salim, Lebanese foreign minister; Jean 'Ubayd, adviser to President al-Jumayyil; Brig Gen 'Uthman 'Uthman, acting director general of the internal security forces; and Michel Samaha, adviser to the Lebanese president.

Arab League's Klibi Arrives; Makes Statement
JN281353 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus — Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab league, arrived in Damascus at 1330 this afternoon on a visit to Syria. He was met at Damascus International Airport by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs. Klibi made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he said: I am visiting Damascus in difficult Arab circumstances in which Syria's role increases in importance. I am pleased to greet the brother Syrian people for their sacrifices in the face of the Zionist enemy. I am also pleased to express the most sincere wishes of continued good health for President Hafiz al-Asad so that he may continue assuming his historical responsibilities. My visit to Syria, as I have said, comes at a time when the Arab nation is facing very dangerous challenges that require consultations from all the leaders of our countries in order to face all these issues. I am looking foward to meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, and to be enlightened with his wise opinions on supporting joint Arab action and finding the right means to preserve the gains of the nation and strengthenits abilities in the struggle for its legitmate rights.

Al-Asad, Khaddam Meeting
JN281957 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this evening received Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League. The meeting was attended by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs. During the meeting talks centered on the situation in the Arab arena and the developments in Lebanon in light of the latest events. The president stressed that the Arabs must stick to their demand forIsraeli withdrawal from Lebanon without this affecting the rights of Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab nation. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister had met with Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League this evening in the presence of Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs. Talks during the meeting centered on the current Arab situation.

Iranian Official Arrives in Damascus 28 Feb
JN282020 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus — Hoseyn Shaykh ol-Eslam, Iranian under secretary of foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus this evening on an official visit of several days to Syria. He was received at Damascus International airport by 'Isma an-Na'ib, under secretary of foreign affairs, high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Iranian embassy staff in Damascus.

UAE Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus
JN291043 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Shaykh Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus today. Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, received him at Damascus International Airport.

President al-Asad Receives Italian CP Delegation
JN281959 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus — At 1830 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the Italian Communist Party delegation led by Dario Volori, member of the Politburo and vice president of the Italian Senate. The meeting was attended by Comrade Tawfiq Salihah, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command. During the meeting, the talks dealt with the relations of cooperation between the Syrian Ba'th and Italian Communist Parties, as well as with the Middle East situation.

Haydar Receives Italian Delegation
JN281725 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA) — Comrade Muhammad Haydar, member of the Ba'th Party National Command and head of the party's foreign relations office, received here today the Italian Communist Party delegation led by Comrade Dario Volari, member of the Political Bureau and vice president of the Italian Senate, now visiting Syria at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command. During the meeting, Comrade Haydar expained the tragic situation in the region and the latest developments in Fatah in particular. He also asserted the support of the party and the state for the Palestinian revolution, Palestinian national cohesion, and the principled efforts to confront the capitulatory and liquidatory trends. They also discussed relations between the Ba'th Party and the Italian Communist Party.

Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi Telephones Al-Asad 28 Feb

JN282042 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA) — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September revolution, telephoned President Hafiz al-Asad this evening. During the conversation, they exchanged views on the situation and developments in the region and matters of common interest.

Commentaries on Need To Abrogate 17 May Agreement

AL-BA'TH Editorial

JN281807 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] On the subject of abrogating the 17 May agreement, the *AL-BA'TH* editorial says: Since the signing of the agreement of submission the nationalist forces have stressed that any dialogue to bring unity back to Lebanon can only take place after abrogating this treasonous agreement that has been imposed by force on Lebanon and its people. It has been asserted officially and popularly that abrogating the 17 May agreement is considered the only practical way to begin the process of dialogue for which all the Lebanese aspire. By abrogating this agreement, the Arabism of Lebanon and the unity of its soil and people can be consecrated, and a new phase of total national resistance to expel the Zionist invaders will begin.

There is no doubt that Israel considered the 17 May agreement another step on the way of generalizing Camp David, and that Israel, in cooperation with its agents, will attempt to foil any tendency toward abrogating this agreement. It may employ different methods and means for this, and it may carry out an extensive military operation because abrogating the agreement in practice means the failure of the policy it adopted after signing the treasonous Camp David agreement.

As soon as reports indicated that the Lebanese Government was about to abrogate the 17 May agreement, Israeli officials came out with a number of statements aimed at putting pressure on the Lebanese Government in an attempt to force it to change its attitude before carrying out the expected step. Foremost among these statements was that by the Zionist enemy's war minister Moshe Arens who said that his government cannot withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon without conditions and that the Zionist invasion forces will not leave southern Lebanon before the conditions that guarantee their security are obtained no matter how long that takes. Moshe Arens aims by these statements to support those Phalangists who cooperate with him and his government. These Phalangists, according to some of their leaders in the Lebanese Front, consider abrogating the treaty a treason that isolates them and blocks the way for their plan that aims at more cooperation and alliance with Tel Aviv. At the same time, Moshe Arens is threatening that Israel has settlement objectives through which Tel Aviv wants to turn southern Lebanon into a zone of influence for it, in which it can carry out its settlement projects as in the other occupied territories controlled by Israel.

If all the Zionist invasion objectives have failed to reach a minimum degree of achievement, then the threat of continued Israeli control over southern Lebanon is only one of these objectives that Israel can no longer be sure of implementing. The abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement will only be a prelude for unifying all the Lebanese people, including all their nationalist and political factions, on the need to begin the process of liberation — a process that Syria supports with all its means and is striving to make available all the equirements for its success.

TISHRIN on Agreement

JN290729 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *TISHRIN* says: There is no longer any doubt that the cancellation of the 17 May Agreement is the sound basis for extricating fraternal Lebanon not only from the fighting which is raging on its territory but also from the chronic crises it has been experiencing throughout history. *TISHRIN* adds: That's why leader Al-Asad stressed that the implementation of what had been agreed in the national dialogue conference is important if Lebanon is to be saved. A consensus on Lebanon's Arab identity and its pan-Arab affiliation constitutes the only framework within which true citizenship can be exercised on the basis of justice, rights, and equality and will restore vigor and tranquillity to Lebanon as well as confidence in the future.

TISHRIN concludes: The time has come to bring Lebanon back to its national origins and roots in wake of the many years of suffering and tribulation. It is time too for all the Lebanese factions to defend Lebanon and exercise true citizenship, especially since the adoption by many of a narrow-minded factional policy is what caused the bitter experiences in Lebanon. There is no doubt that hopes are high and confidence in the future is great with the beginning of the realization of the need to remain committed to Lebanon's pan-Arab nature, and to the role it must play within the Arab nation and in the nation's dispute with its enemies. Despite all this, there are steps, nay, long strides that must be taken without delay so that Lebanon will become what its sons and the Arab nation's sons want it to be.

ATH-THAWRAH on Syrian Influence in Mideast

JN291047 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, 29 Feb (SANA) — *ATH-THAWRAH* affirms that Lebanon will only be what Syria wants it to be and that a greater part of the tragedy in Lebanon was due to the fact that certain sides had tried to ignore this reality. In an editorial entitled "The Feat of Al-Asad's Syria," the paper says: These sides, especially the Lebanese ones, have now discovered this reality. But had they resorted to reason and logic, they would have discovered this reality a long time ago and spared Lebanon all the tears and all the blood which is staining its soil today. Instead, these sides wagered on the mirage of the U.S.-Israeli solution and thought that the Israeli option would save Lebanon from its tribulation. It has now been proven beyond all doubt that

depending on Washington and its power is a serious course which does not guarantee the security and or wellbeing of those who have taken this course. This is because the United States does not honor its obligations and pledges toward those who are loyal to it. Moreover, the United States is incapable of imposing its wish on Lebanon and the region.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: Washington has failed to change the political map of Lebanon and has left the Phalangist regime facing the storm alone. This is not the first time the United States has abandoned its friends, and neither will it be the last. The fate of the Shah of Iran should remain vivid in the minds of those Arab rulers who may contemplate linking their destiny with that of the United States and disavowing the issues of their nation. Washington has failed to carry out the 17 May agreement despite all the military and political clout [words indistinct] it used to pressure and intimidate Syria.

The paper points out that the [words indistinct] which faced this ill-omend agreement was to be expected. The agreement was stillborn. The black fate ofthe Americans and their agents in Lebanon has shown that the decisionmakers in Washington did not understand the nature of the situation in Lebanon and its historical links with Syria. They also did not take into account Syria's interests and role there.

ATH-THAWRAH says: Thus, the development of the situation in Lebanon did not only prove the soundness of the Syrian stand, but also confirmed that it is impossible to make peace or war without Syria in view of the values and principles it represents and the basic force it constitutes in the region. The paper affirms that any political move, initiative, or plan that conflicts with Syria's stands and principles will not succeed. The fates of the 17 May agreement, which is now dying; the Reagan plan which is frozen; and the Jordanian option, which is dead, are all clear proof that failure will await any political move yhat does not please Syria.

Reportage, Reaction to 'Arafat Jordanian Talks Reported

Israeli Radio Cited

JN290805 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] The enemy radio reported a short while ago that King Husayn of Jordan has informed the United States of his readiness to enter into direct negotiations with Israel within a few weeks.

Opposition to Talks Reported

JN282150 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus — The Jordanian Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has strongly denounced the suspect meeting between Jordan's King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat and called on Palestinian national forces to answer this move quckly because it is not only directed at liqudiating the Palestine cause but also at liquidating Jordan, its land and people, and making it an American Zionist base for conspiring against the Arab liberation movement.

A responsible source in the Jordanian regional command, in a statement on the Husayn-'Arafat meeting, stressed that their closed meeting yesterday included the finalization fo the details of the U.S. conspiratorial plan that aims at activating the Camp David agreements and the autonomy plan by direct negotiations between the royalist regime and the Zionist enemy.

The source added that the talks between 'Arafat and Husayn on forming Palestinian forces to join the Jordanian RDF is only a new conspiracy that 'Arafat is adding to his numerous conspiracies against the Palestinian revolution and against the confrontation with the Zionist enemy. The source declared that the regional command and all the parties and forces of the Jordanian national movement, as well as the nationalist, union, and vocational personalities together with the Arab masses, are standing firmly in the face of this suspect plan in which 'Arafat and his clique have fallen, and call on all the national Palestinian forces to quickly foil it.

The source concluded by stressing the importance of facing the most dangerous and vicious imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary attack, and saying that its bases in the Arab homeland must be hit and the agent regimes that are attempting to ratify the capitulatory plans aimed at our Arab nation, especially the Palestine cause, must be exposed.

Palestinian Paper Cited

JN282215 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] *AL-QA'IDAH*, newspaper of the Central Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Front, stressed in an article today that the Jordanian regime is currently moving toward taking over the role of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. The paper says: We tell those who go to the king and those who propagate working with him that you only own yourselves and you are violating the resolutions of the 16th PNC session on this subject. At a time when the Lebanese masses are fighting the Zionists and our revolutionaries are fighting, you are wasting the energies of our people and are dragging them toward division. The paper concludes: Armed struggle is the only way to achieve victory and the Palestinian people know through their bloody experience that the kings and sultans and the like do not liberate lands and do not destroy enemies.

Al-Kasm Receives Visiting GDR Minister

JN281937 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus — Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm at 1300 this afternoon received Felix Meier, GDR minister of electrical engineering and electronics, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Minister of Electricity Dr Ahmad 'Umar Yusuf.During the meeting, the visiting minister expressed the GDR's firm support for Syria's struggle

and confrontation of Zionist and U.S. imperialist plans. He also stressed the constructive cooperation between the two friendly countries in all fields according to the principles and bases laid down by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Erich Honecker. These principles and bases are a solid background for the relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the GDR. He also praised the steps taken by Syria in the fields of progress and development.

Al-Kasm thanked the visting minister for his appreciation of Syria's steps and stressed that developing the relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries is a firm objective for Syria because the joint positions of Syria and the GDR against all the hostile plans are strengthened by the joint interests of the two peoples. Al-Kasm also became acquainted with Meier's talks with officials in Damascus and expressed his satisfaction with the positive results of their sincere joitn cooperation in all fields.

Damascus Radio Reports Jerusalem Bomb Blast

JN281250 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Feb84

[Text] Occupied Palestine — The Palestinian resistance men this morning carried out a daring fedayeen operation in the center of occupied Jerusalem, killing or wounding more than 20 Zionists. In an urgent dispatch, AFP said that two explosive charges were placed in the Zionist shop of (Afay) in Yafo street. The explosion resulted in the killing and wounding of a number of persons. A short while after the explosion, the enemy radio admitted this explosion had taken place and that it had resulted in the wounding of 21 persons some seriously. Reports said that the Zionist police rushed to the scene of the incident, cut off all roads leading to it, evacuated the injured to hospitals, and launched a large-scale arrest campaign in search of the fedayeen.

Shamir Briefs Foreign Affairs, Defense Committee

TA281225 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister has said that Israel has no intention of bringing about the partition of Lebanon. Speaking at a Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting, Yitzhaq Shamir also firmly denied the charge by MK Sarid that the government is leaving the IDF in Lebanon for reasons of prestige. Shamir emphasized that the reports of differences of opinion among the ministers over policy in Lebanon are totally unfounded. According to the prime minister, all the ministers share the view that it is necessary to achieve security arrangements that will satisfy Israel and allow it to forego a constant IDF presence in the area.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that National Religious Party MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir said at the session that the IDF deployment along its present lines in Lebanon weakens it and harms security. He called on the government to decide quickly on a withdrawal to a new line which will both guarantee peace for the Galilee and prevent the army's weakening.

MK Ge'ula Kohen said that the Alignment had challenged the illusions created by the Likud over Lebanon, but it is itself creating illusions about the possibility of securing peace in the Galilee without a dominant IDF presence.

Further on Shamir Briefing

TA281759 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Lebanon is not Eretz Yisra'el and we have no intention of bringing about the partition of this country, the prime minister said to members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. Shamir denied reported disagreements in the Cabinet about policy in Lebanon, saying that in the last Cabinet meeting everyone was united in the opinion that we have to achieve security arrangements so as to eliminate the need for a continuous presence in the area. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports on the committee meeting today:

[Begin recording] There was another argument over Lebanon in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. Alignment MK Ya'aqov Tzur claimed that the Cabinet's lack of a decision practically means accepting the partition of Lebanon. You are leading to permanent settlement in this northern bank, Tzur charged. The prime minister's answer: Why make things up? We have no intention of partitioning Lebanon; therefore, there is no room to talk of a northern bank. This is not Eretz Yisra'el.

Alignment MK Hayim Bar-Lev warned that time is not working in our favor in Lebanon, while Alignment MK Yosi Sarid contended that 7 months ago the prime minister promised that that was the end of the war. This is the longest end in the world, befitting such a long war, Sarid said, adding that we are not getting out of Lebanon because of considerations of government prestige, since this would mean admitting the failure of the war. Yitzhaq Shamir answered Sarid angrily, saying: I really think we are at the last stage of this war, and we do not act out of considerations of prestige but of security only.

Former Deputy Foreign Minister MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir again called for a redeployment of the IDF. The present lines, he argued, wear the army out. Tehiya MK Ge'ula Kohen demanded that the Alignment leaders stop cultivating illusions, as the Likud did in the past. You are security-oriented, she told the Alignment leaders, and you know there can be no security for the Galilee without an intensive IDF presence in Lebanon.

The head of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, MK Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, wanted to know what the Cabinet is doing with regard to the U.S.-PLO contacts. The prime minister said that Ambassador Rosenne protested to the U.S. Administration, and received the explanation that Washington was aided by an academic element in order to check whether the PLO had changed. The results of the check were negative, Yitzhaq Shamir emphasized.

As for the annulment of the agreement with Lebanon, the situation is fluid and Jerusalem is awaiting additional information. In this context, the prime minister mainly emphasized that Israel wants to get out of Lebanon, and will do so the moment our northern border is secured. [end recording]

Finnish Foreign Ministry Director General Arrives

TA271714 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 27 Feb (ITIM) — The director general of the Finnish Foreign Ministry, Mr Matti Tuovinen, arrived this afternoon for a 3-day visit to Israel. He will hold talks with his Israeli counterpart, David Kimche.

The talks will center on relations between the two countries, the Middle East problem, and international issues. Mr Tuovinen was received at the airport by Mr Kimche. He will also meet with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The guest said that "Finland is involved in all the peace efforts in the world, and its soldiers are serving in all units of the UN forces, in this area also. It is therefore important that we exchange opinions on events taking place in the Middle East and the world generally."

Shamir Meets Finnish Visitor

TA281816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister today met in his office with the secretary general of the Finnish Foreign Ministry. The talk revolved mainly around the Middle East-based UN forces which include Finnish soldiers. The prime minister said that technically speaking, a UN force can replace the Multinational Force in Beirut, but this is conditional on the agreement of the Lebanese Government and the rival factions in Lebanon.

The visitor noted that the Finnish soldiers serve in the Middle East voluntarily, and their transfer to Beirut will require a special decision in Helsinki. Yitzhaq Shamir noted that a UN force is effective in maintaining peace only if the two sides it separates

are interested in this. This is why UNIFIL did not manage to prevent the infiltration of terrorists into Israel. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez notes that the two also discussed the Israeli-Finnish trade balance, which is in Finland's favor today.

Sources on Abrogation of Agreement With Lebanon

TA291117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil departed for Damascus at noon to confer with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Lebanese Government sources said the meeting was decided upon after President al-Jumayyil complied with Syria's demand to abrogate the agreement with Israel. Beirut papers nevertheless reported today that Al-Jumayyil would not close down the Israeli representation in Beirut for the time being.

Political circles in Jerusalem said that if the Lebanese Government abrogates the agreement, Israel will be free of the commitments it undertook in the agreement and will act according to its security interests. These circles nevertheless expressed the hope that Al-Jumayyil will withstand Syria's pressures and will not abrogate the agreement because this will be construed as a loss of Lebanon's sovereignty.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that the meeting between Al-Jumayyil and Al-Asad will also be attended by several of Al-Jumayyil's rivals in Lebanon, including Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt. Our correspondent has also learned that not only has Al-Jumayyil undertaken to abrogate the agreement with Israel, but he will also agree to a stationing of Syrian troops in Lebanon, in areas Syria deems vital to the defense of its security.

Jerusalem Police Detain Suspects in Explosion

TA281919 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1910 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Jerusalem, 28 Feb (ITIM) — Three members of the minorities have been detained by the Jerusalem police in the wake of the terrorist act in the center of Jerusalem today. It has been learned that the hand grenades which exploded were Soviet-made, of the F-1 type, and that no delay mechanism was found.

Knesset Passes Eighth Basic Law on Judiciary

TA290718 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Feb 84 p 3

[Report by Robert Rosenberg]

[Text] Israel took a step toward a completed written constitution yesterday when the Knesset passed Basic Law: Judiciary, the eighth of what will eventually be 11 Basic Laws comprising a constitution.

Justice Minister Moshe Nisim predicted yesterday that by the end of 1985, the last of the Basic Laws will be promulgated and that then it will be possible to draw up a constitution. However, he quickly added that political differences between various factions in the Knesset over the substance of Basic Law: Civil Rights, could create serious obstacles in the way of reaching a conclusion to the creation of all the Basic Laws.

Only Mordekhay Virshubsky of Shinuy voted against the law, which aside from making some minor changes regarding the removal from office of poorly functioning judges, does little to change any of the existing laws concerning the state's judiciary.

Nisim yesterday told reporters that he expects that the remaining three Basic Laws — Civil Rights, State Comptroller, and Legislation — could all be through the Knesset by the end of 1985. However, he said, the civil rights basic law poses tremendous problems because of "those who believe they can make a revolution in Israel through that law."

He was referring to the ongoing debate between the religious parties and MK's from the liberal-left, who are at loggerheads over the extent to which matters involving religious authorities are to be expressed in the civil rights bill.

The minister emphasized that he sought as wide a consensus as possible for any of the Basic Laws he brings to the Knesset, and it therefore seems unlikely that he'll soon be bringing it to legislation without a broad consensus for the civil rights bill.

The most significant new element in the law passed yesterday was the mandate given to the Judicial Election Committee — a nine-member committee that includes Supreme Court justices, MK's, lawyers and the justice minister — to fire a judge.

It will take a seven-person majority on the Judicial Election Committee to remove a judge from a bench, and the purpose of the law is to enable the committee to remove judges who have been proven to be incompetent.

For breaches of discipline, the judicial disciplinary court has been given new authority to hand down graduated sentences enabling it to reprimand, fine, deny a pension to a judge convicted for breach of discipline.

Yesterday's legislation included, there are now eight Basic Laws: Presidency, Knesset, Government, Land Registry, Economy, Army, Jerusalem, and Judiciary.

Economic Minister Comments on U.S. Aid

TA281729 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The Israeli economic affairs minister in Washington, Dan Halperin, has said that Israel's friends in Congress will try to increase the economic grant, and in the end the sum Israel requested at one time, $1.3 billion, may be approved. Last night the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee approved an economic grant to Israel of $1.1 billion, but the legislative process in this matter is a long one.

Bank of Israel Publishes 1983 Statistics

TA281220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The citizens of Israel purchased more than $1.6 billion from the country's foreign currency reserves last year. The government, the Bank of Israel, and other banks borrowed money overseas and brought into Israel about $1.5 billion — or 7 times more than the year before. Therefore, foreign currency reserves ultimately decreased by a relatively small sum. This emerges from the Bank of Israel balance, which was published today. The governor of the Bank of Israel explained to our correspondent that the rush to buy dollars was caused by the infrequency of the devaluations, which led to great expectations, and which severly harmed all economic spheres.

It also transpires from the Bank of Israel balance that all in all, citizens lost about 30 percent of their financial assets, and about 2/3 of the value of their money in stocks, bonds, and shares. The printing of money grew, in real terms, by 90 percent. The Bank of Israel lost about 30 billion shekels because it lent the government a lot of money at terms better than the going rate.

King Husayn Reportedly Ready To Talk With Israel

JN290754 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0730 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Our political correspondent says that King Husayn of Jordan has informed the United States that he wishes to enter into peaceful negotiations with Israel within a few weeks, with or without Yasir 'Arafat. The king also urged Washington to divert attention from Lebanon so as to give the negotiations between Jordan and Israel a push forward.

Our correspondent adds that Secretary of State George Shultz revealed King Husayn's position on this subject during his last meeting in Washington with Israeli Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres. Our correspondent also says that the competent quarters in Jerusalem are trying to decipher the hints from Washington about U.S. participation in the preparation of a new peace initiative in which Jordan and Yasir 'Arafat will play a leading role.

Our correspondent adds that political circles in Jerusalem have expressed concern over the reports from Washington that a number of senior U.S. officials, including national security adviser Robert McFarlane, have referred to the PLO's moderation in closed meetings.

Reports About Husayn 'Exaggerated'

TA291133 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Political circles in Jerusalem say that reports alleging that Husayn is ready to join negotiations with Israel are exaggerated. They were thus reacting to a report we broadcast this morning that the Jordanian king had informed the United States that he would join the political process — either with or without 'Arafat — within a few weeks. The Jerusalem circles said that U.S. Administration elements have many times in the past spread reports about Husayn's readiness to join the negotiations but they very soon realized there was nothing behind these reports.

These circles further noted that these reports are intended to show that even after the withdrawal of the U.S. Marines from Beirut, the United States is continuing its efforts to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Nabulus Youths Again Protest 'Arafat-Husayn Meeting

TA281826 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Tens of youths demonstrated in Nabulus today against Jordan and against the Husayn-'Arafat talks. The security forces did not intervene. A similar demonstration took place in the Nabulus casbah yesterday.

Report on W. Bank Reaction to Husayn-'Arafat Talks

TA270847 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Report by correspondent in the territories Gil Ronen — recorded]

[Excerpts] The Husayn-'Arafat meeting is evidence of the close relationship between the political vicissitudes in the Arab world and events in the territories. There is no doubt that one of the main reasons for 'Arafat's decision to return to Amman is the decline in his influence in the West Bank and the rise in power of Husayn's supporters. Sympathy for 'Arafat has decreased in the wake of his military defeats, among other things, and the support he lost is now given to King Husayn.

King Husayn is greatly interested in this sympathy, witness the resumption of the Jordanian Parliament's activity, with Arab representatives from both banks of the Jordan. 'Arafat then feels he should embark on some political initiative, not necessarily on a peace, but an initiative involving the participation of the United States and other Western countries. To this end, 'Arafat needs the Jordanian king.

Husayn, for his part, is indeed free to talk with the United States without the PLO's help, but he cannot claim to represent the Palestinians since the Arabs at the Rabat summit crowned 'Arafat the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

'Arafat and Husayn are then like two gamblers who each hold half of the winning lottery card. They need each other to score an achievement but are unwilling to share the prize.

The contrasting interests of 'Arafat and Husayn are well reflected among the West Bank leaders. Husayn's supporters, on the one hand, hope that the Amman meeting will lead to 'Arafat's giving up the claim to sole representative and permitting Husayn's participating in negotiations. On the other hand, the Fatah sympathizers hope to use Husayn as a link between the PLO and the United States, but nothing else.

AL-FAJR editor Hanna Siniora is known for his support for Fatah. We asked him what result he is hoping for from the Husayn-'Arafat talks.

[Begin Siniora recording in English] Well, we hope that there would be a breakthrough in the negotiations between a joint Jordanian-Palestinian position and the Israeli position. Hopefully...[end recording]

[Ronen translates and continues] Siniora says he hopes that the cooperation between Jordan and the Palestinians will lead to this breakthrough. Does this mean, we asked, that the PLO will no longer be able to call itself the sole representative of the Palestinians?

[Begin Siniora recording in English] We insist that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. However, because the Palestinians and the PLO are wishing for a political breakthrough; that's why they are encouraging the talks between Jordan and the Palestinians...[end recording]

[Ronen, translates and continues] Siniora says the Palestinians encourage the talks with Jordan so as to be able to tell the world that they are willing to talk through the Jordanians as well.

Do you then view Jordan as a mediator only, we asked.

[Begin Siniora recording in English] That's it; that's the only position that the Palestinians and the PLO are taking now. They want to tell the world and the Israelis that the Palestinians and the PLO are in a position to talk to them, and also to assure that they are willing to talk a peaceful solution, they are going through the Jordanians. [end recording]

The Husayn supporters in the West Bank, such as Ilyas Frayj, hope and want the Jordanians to be a full party, an integral part of the talks and not only a mediator.

This is a basic difference in the expectations and plans of West Bankers, which is not unknown to 'Arafat or Husayn. All this casts a doubt on the possibility that the two will indeed manage to consolidate a joint initiative. This may be the reason why the supporters of both camps in the West Bank do not go overboard with praise for and expectations of the meeting. They are now settling for welcoming it and closely following the talks.

'AL HAMISHMAR on Husayn-'Arafat Meeting

TA281055 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Feb 84 p 5

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "A Dialogue in Jordan Under Pressure of the Tripartite Summit Meeting in the United States"]

[Text] It is now becoming clear how wise and far-reaching a move 'Arafat's visit to Cairo immediately following the evacuation from Tripoli was. After the final loss of the military option, 'Arafat was forced to enter the political process to maintain his status as an international statesman.

However, Jordan did not make the job easy for him. As far as it is concerned, joining the political process — either with or without 'Arafat — is a very dangerous move because it might awaken the national feelings of the Palestinians, not just on the West Bank but also on the east bank of the Jordan River. Therefore, Jordan presented 'Arafat with very severe conditions that reduced his importance in the political process. At the same time, Jordan took some measures to ensure its own status, measures which constituted a serious provocation for 'Arafat. These mainly refer to the decision to renew the representation of the West Bank in the Jordanian Parliament. This move seriously threatened the main political asset of the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

'Arafat had predicted Jordan's moves and, therefore, he "took precautions" and called on Mubarak. Jordan is dear to the PLO because it is the main gateway to Palestine. However, if Jordan blocked this gate with harsh conditions, Egypt could serve as a rear door entrance. The fact that these considerations were correct became clear during the tripartite summit meeting in Washington between President Reagan and Mubarak and King Husayn.

'Arafat's visit to Amman could not have taken place had it not been for the talks in Washington. Until that meeting, Husayn had been avoiding a meeting with 'Arafat because he realized that 'Arafat had not yet accepted Jordan's demands to play a rather modest role in the political process and the final arrangements. During the tripartite talks in Washington, however, King Husayn gave in to President Mubarak's pressure — and apparently also to President Reagan's declarations — and decided to ease the pressure on Yasir 'Arafat to make his visit to Amman possible.

It is no coincidence that the reports about secret contacts between the United States and the PLO were leaked in Washington precisely at this time. This shows that the United States has an obvious interest in including the PLO in the political process and that it is not pleased with Jordan's evasive maneuvers.

President Mubarak's warm declarations in Washington in support of the PLO versus Husayn's silence indicate that King Husayn did not willingly agree to confer with 'Arafat. He was apparently threatened that if 'Arafat could not join the peace process through Jordan, the United States would agree to let him enter it through Egypt, after a Palestinian government-in-exile was established in Cairo. Such a government would largely endanger Jordan's latest achievements in the Palestinian cause.

What will 'Arafat and Husayn discuss now? Obviously, they will not talk about entering peace talks with Israel. They are sufficiently cautious and wise not to enter the dangerous adventure of talks with the Likud government. Arab tactics will take a different turn: President Reagan is now beginning his election campaign. This may be the best opportunity to improve the stature of the Arabs in the United States at the expense of Israel by publishing an Arab political plan precisely during an election year in the United States. Such a plan would prove that Reagan's initiative is not dead and may help the President, who is running for reelection.

Therefore, although he tried to postpone the meeting with 'Arafat for as long as he could, once the day of the meeting arrived Husayn warmly greeted 'Arafat. Although 'Arafat was not greeted at the airport by the king himself but rather by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, he was immediately taken to the King's palace and at the ensuing banquet he was seated opposite the king and the leaders of the Kingdom. This means that although Jordan does not regard 'Arafat as a statesman on the same level as a king, it sees him as some sort of future prime minister in a confederation which will be established in the future under the rule of King Husayn. However, as a special gesture, Jordan is treating him during his current visit with the same ceremony it would treat a statesman.

Once the niceties are over, the king and his guest will have to discuss matters of substance and they will actually have to continue the talks that were severed 9 months ago. On 11 May 1983, the East Jerusalem paper *AL-MITHAQ* published a photocopy of the agreement which was almost signed by Husayn and 'Arafat with the latter's hand-written amendments to the version drafted by the Jordanians. Presumably, they will now continue to argue over those points. The only substantial issue the king and his guest agreed to was accepting the Fes plan. However, 'Arafat amended the paragraph about accepting Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to read "the UN resolutions on the issue of the national rights of the Palestinian people."

The words "entering peace talks" 'Arafat changed to read "an Arab framework compatible with the international peace process" and ths words referring to the Reagan plan he changed to read "the resolutions of the international community, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

On the face of it, these differences would seem abysmal and heralding tiring negotiations between the two partner-rivals. Meanwhile, some things have happened to the PLO which have not exactly strengthened 'Arafat. The question is how much will Jordan insist on its positions and how much 'Arafat count on Egyptian, and indirectly, U.S. support.

Papers on Husayn, U.S. Contacts With PLO

TA270632 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Text] On the editorial pages only *DAVAR* feels ready to comment on the Husayn-'Arafat meeting, and here mainly to criticize Israeli Government's policy. It is difficult to comprehend, *DAVAR* says, why the government does not signal to Husayn its willingness to enter into realistic negotiations with him, on the basis of Camp David. The present stalemate may not be harmful in the short term, but in the longer term the status quo constitutes not only a political threat but a national danger.

"Flirting With the PLO" is the title of *THE JERUSALEM POST* editorial which says that the Americans, in 9 months of contacts, failed to persuade the PLO even to accept UN Security Council resolutions which are almost universally held to be a cornerstone of any Arab-Israel peace settlement. It could be argued, *THE JERUSALEM POST* says, that Yasir 'Arafat handed Israel a diplomatic victory on a silver platter. Israel, for its part, must insist that the United States reject any notion of a dialogue with the PLO, as long as the Palestinian covenant stands.

Syrians Demonstrate on Golan Heights Near IDF

TA282047 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2030 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The Golan Heights, 28 Feb (ITIM) — Buses full of residents have been arriving almost daily for a demonstration near the Al-Qunaytirah border crossing point on the Golan Heights, in full view of the IDF soldiers. The demonstrators carry pictures of Khomeyni and make catcalls in the direction of the soldiers.

The Syrians confiscate products with Israeli tags which are brought into Syria by the UN officers who serve on the Golan Heights and travel to Damascus via the Al-Qunaytirah crossing.

The ITIM correspondent has learned that at the Al-Qunaytirah crossing point, the Syrians conduct the most meticulous checks of the UN officers' possessions and confiscate any product suspected of being Israeli-made. A Netherlands UN officer had to give up a leather bag purchased in Japan, since the Syrians were convinced that the Japanese writing was Hebrew.

Pro-Israeli Demonstration in Southern Lebanon

TA281340 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1325 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] At noon 15,000 Christian inhabitants of various places in Lebanon participated in a demonstration in Jazzin. The Christians support the continuation of the peace agreement between Israel and Lebanon, and closer ties between Israel and the Christian people in Lebanon. This was the largest demonstration by Christians in Lebanon in support of Israel since the Peace for Galilee campaign.

One of the Phalange leaders in Lebanon, (Nizr Nazriyah), in a talk with our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, explained that if the Lebanese president were to cancel the agreement between the two countries, the Phalangists would act as a firm opponent of the Lebanese president.

Two IDF Soldiers Killed in Lebanon 28 Feb

TA281707 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] At noon, two IDF soldiers were killed in a terrorist ambush north of An-Nabatiyah. The families have been informed. The IDF spokesman announced that the incident occurred near the village of 'Arab Salim, about 6 km northeast of An-Nabatiyah. The terrorists fired RPG's and small arms at two IDF vehicles. The soldiers returned fire. IDF forces arrived at the spot and begun wide scale combing operations. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that an RPG launcher, two Kalashnikov rifles,

ammunition clips, and hand grenades were found on the spot. A curfew has been imposed on the 'Arab Salim region. Our correspondent points out that soldier Natan Sharafi was killed near that spot last week. So far, 571 soldiers and security forces personnel have been killed in Lebanon.

No Injuries in Sidon Hand Grenade Incident

TA281615 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] This afternoon, a hand grenade was thrown at an IDF position in the center of Sidon. Nobody was hurt. IDF forces closed off several streets and began combing operations. Several members of the Sidon Municipal Council told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that they would try to convene the council in a few days to discuss measures to be taken by the inhabitants to cut down the attacks against IDF forces. They said that IDF reactions were causing damage to the town's businessmen and difficulties for other inhabitants.

Labor Party Criticizes Policy in Lebanon

TA281952 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The Labor Party has said that the statements that Israel now has no option of leaving Lebanon without abandoning the Galilee settlements' security is a grave one and can mislead the public. The Labor Party reactions team has described the decision to remain in Lebanon in the following words: A fig leaf which covers the grave failure of the pretentious program of June 1982.

Israeli Envoy Protests Flag Burning in Cairo

TA281827 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Israel's Ambassador to Cairo, Moshe Sason, today protested to the Egyptian foreign minister over the burning of an Israeli flag in Cairo. Our correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that the ambassador protested that the members of the Egyptian Lawyers Chamber burned the Israeli and U.S. flags at a ceremony in Cairo the day before yesterday.

Egypt's Khalil on IDF Withdrawal From Lebanon

TA290922 Tel Aviv DAVAR In Hebrew 29 Feb 84 p 1

[Report on "exclusive" interview with former Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil by Cairo correspondent Dan Avidan on 28 February; place not given]

[Text] Cairo — Former Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil yesterday called on the Israeli Government to evacuate the IDF from Lebanon without making this conditional on the withdrawal of the Syrian Army from that country, to come to terms with the expected abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, and to strive instead for security agreements with Lebanon which would secure the northern border of the State of Israel. Dr Khalil said that under these circumstances, Egypt would recognize the IDF's right to once again intervene militarily in Lebanon if the terrorists resettle in the southern area.

Speaking with the *DAVAR* correspondent, Dr Khalil said that if Israel adopted these measures, there would be an improvement in Egyptian-Israeli relations which had reached an all-time low in the wake of the Lebanese war. According to Dr Khalil, the reports that the Lebanese president is determined to abrogate the agreement with Israel and that he may soon pay a "visit of capitulation" to President al-Asad prove that Israel has not accomplished anything in Lebanon. "The Israeli Government must now adopt the move adopted by President Reagan," Khalil noted.

Dr Khalil does not think that Israeli-Egyptian relations have reached an impasse. In his opinion, an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon would immediately improve the atmosphere of mutual relations. Khalil blamed the deterioration in the relations between the two countries on the Israeli military intervention in Lebanon which had reached its peak in the events of Sabra and Shatila, on the rigid Israeli position regarding the dispute in Tabah, and on the current Israeli policy which has hindered progress in the negotiations on a solution of the Palestinian problem. If Israel evinces good will and changes its policy on these subjects, the obstacles hindering an improvement in Egyptian-Israeli relations will have been removed. Nevertheless, Dr Khalil admitted that an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon would not lead to the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv. According to him, the return of the ambassador to his post will only be feasible after the dispute over Tabah is solved and progress is made in the political negotiations on a solution of the Palestinian problem.

Khalil argued that as a first step to promoting an arrangement of the Palestinian problem, Israel should slow down the pace of settlement in the territories. The way he sees it, such a move would encourage Husayn and 'Arafat to formulate an agreement about the inclusion of Jordanian and Palestinian representatives in the political negotiations in the Middle East.

In the meeting with the *DAVAR* correspondent, Dr Khalil disclosed that Egypt has recently increased the quantities of oil it sells Israel and the current quota stands at 2 million barrels a year.

In the talk with the *DAVAR* correspondent, Dr Khalil confirmed, by inference, that President Mubarak has actually embraced President Reagan's initiative as a new basis for expanding the political process in the Middle East.

In his opinion, this does not contravene the Camp David accords which merely stipulated a comprehensive framework for negotiations. According to him, each side is entitled to raise diverse initiatives to promote the political process as long as the underlying purpose is to reach a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East which would focus on a just solution of the Palestinian problem and which would guarantee "the legitimate rights of the Palestinians."

Egypt Releases Fishermen Rescued From Gulf of Elat
TA290845 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
29 Feb 84 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Two Israelis whose boat capsized 2 days ago in the Gulf of Elat and who were rescued by the Egyptian Coast Guard were released yesterday evening and taken to the Elat police station for interrogation. The two, Avraham Azulay and Yosef Cooperman, spent 1 and 1/2 days at the police station in An-Nuwaybi'. Their boat capsized about 30 kms south of Tabah. Egyptian Coast Guard personnel rescued them and transferred them to the police at An-Nuwaybi'.

Egyptian sources told the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent that Egypt has decided to harden its position regarding trespassing in the sea. The Egyptian sources argued that Israeli fishermen and sailors behave in the area as if it is their own territory. It has been learned that license applications by Israeli yachtsmen to sail to the Coral Island have been piling up at the Egyptian Consulate in Elat but the Egyptians are not issuing any licenses. Commenting on this, Israeli sources said they would henceforth keep a check on Israeli boats.

Menahem Begin Invited To Recuperate in Romania
TA260933 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
26 Feb 84 p 1

[Report by Yitzhaq Dish]

[Text] Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu has invited former Prime Minister Menahem Begin to visit Romania in order to recuperate.

The Romanian president extended the invitation via Minister of Commerce and Industry Gid'on Pat, who is on an official visit there. Mr Ceausescu also conveyed his best wishes to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

At a meeting held at the end of last week, the Romanian president repeated his position in support of the establishment of a Palestinian state. Minister Pat replied that Israel is firmly opposed to this position and said that Israel adhered to the Camp David agreements in whose framework a solution to the problems was to be found.

Zairian Minister Arrives 26 Feb for 4-Day Visit
TA261802 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1740 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Zairian Minister of Tourism and Ecology Ndjoli Balanga arrived this afternoon for an official visit to Israel and was received at Ben-Gurion Airport by Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir.

During the 4-day visit, the guest will be received by President Herzog, and will meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. He said he brought with him a message from his prime minister for Mr Shamir.

RAKAH Paper Becomes Daily, Seeks Funds
TA261911 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1755 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Nazareth, 26 Feb (ITIM) — The Arabic-language paper published by RAKAH, *AL-ITTIHAD*, has recently launched a fund-raising campaign among its subscribers to allow for the continued existence of the newspaper as a daily paper. ITIM reports that the fund-raising campaign is being conducted in Arab population centers, and has been given wide publicity in the newspaper, which publishes the names of the donors. Up until a few months ago the newspaper only appeared twice a week, but it has become a weekly following a subscription campaign among the Arab population and the receipt of contributions from various elements abroad, which are not described as Israel's sympathizers or supporters.

The newspaper is a main mouthpiece for the Communist Party's activity and has undergone various transformations over the past few years until it has assumed its current framework. The editorial staff is headed by MK Tawfiq Tubi.

Recently the newspaper received contributions worth thousands of dollars from the association of Palestinian writers in Cyprus — a location to which the association moved following the expulsion of the PLO from Beirut.

Further on OAU Council of Ministers' Session

Mengistu's Opening Statement

EA281827 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1710 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Speech by Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council and chairman of the OAU, at opening of the 40th ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers in Africa Hall, Addis Ababa, on 27 February — live or recorded]

[Excerpt] Honorable Ministers, the general situation facing our continent is not one which we can afford to be lax about, particularly because conflicts and misunderstandings are escalating in certain regions, while the desire for peace is constantly growing.

It is clear to all that if misunderstandings and suspicions prevail between the countries and peoples of Africa instead of cooperation, apart from conditions being created for imperialism's plots to flourish, our attention can be diverted from economic development and the struggle for independence that we are currently engaged in.

Even though imperialism is the primary cause of the problems our continent has constantly faced, and of the problems which continue to challenge it, we Africans must discharge our responsibilities in a true African spirit and work with a clear conscience toward promoting our continent's well-being and our peoples' common prosperity. To solve our problems together and enhance our common efforts, we must prove our readiness to contribute that which is expected from each of us, through our willingness, [word indistinct], and decisiveness.

When we scan the political face of the world, we realize that the unprecedented escalation of the arms buildup and distribution, the intensification of imperialism's antipeople, antidemocratic, fictitious propaganda campaign, and the dubious resurrection of detente or easing of tension, constitute the major threats to world peace.

The very tense and war-embroiled situation in the Middle East, Central America, and Caribbean Gulf [as heard] also jeopardize world peace. As was seen in Grenada, if the campaigns of imperialism and reaction to manipulate the independence of peoples toward their wishes and to [word indistinct] their choice of development, if their anti-independence and arrogant deeds are not halted in time, the chances that people will find satisfaction and the world relief will obviously be very remote.

I would like to clarify at this juncture that it is the desire of African people to promote their development on paths which they themselves have chosen, free from interference and any kind of direct or indirect pressure. The principal desire of the African people is peace and security. The principal issue confronting the African people is how to once again avoid falling under the divisive shadow of imperialists and colonialists who have been exploiting and dividing them for numerous decades.

Honorable Ministers, when we assess the political situation in southern Africa, we realize that the boundless plots of the racist Pretoria government are increasing. It is a matter of concern that South Africa is practicing its familiar arrogant policy of violating the independence and governments of neighboring countries -- the blatant aggression against Angola and in general its efforts to terrorize the Frontline States and destabilize them, its futile attempt to stifle the struggle of South Africa's national independence movements, and the politics of deceit it conducts to abort the efforts and sacrifices of the Namibian people -- all of this is of great concern. The racist regime has continually plants obstacles to ensure that Namibia's independence is not realized in a legal and peaceful manner in accordance with UN Resolution No 435.

It is known that, according to its whim, South Africa links the situation to the presence of Cuban soldiers in Angola, and on other occasions has presented unacceptable preconditions by considering puppet groups in Namibia as representatives of the people. Even though basically any effort to solve the question of Namibia's independence -- as long as it is based on justice -- is one that will be supported, the viability of proposals from South Africa and its supporters are always questionable. The truth is that the racist government's policies aim at attenuating the intensified struggle of the people and to create preconditions for neocolonialism.

It has now become increasingly clear that we must intensify our struggle, our political and diplomatic campaign, economic sanctions and efforts to completely isolate South Africa so that Namibia's move itoward independence is accelerated. The struggle of South Africa's liberation patriots is enhanced and the security and governments of the Frontline States are preserved. In this respect, we realize that we should consult on the common stand we will take at the United Nations and other international forums, and that we should increase our pressure. On the other hand, by giving the liberation struggles of the region full material, political, and diplomatic support, we should create conditions that will enable them to consolidate the inevitable banner of independence.

Another problem that casts doubt on our continent's political independence, and which is the cause of [word indistinct] of many millions of Africans, is the economic situation. Even though this is a reflection of the international economic crisis, it is partlty a problem caused by nature. The natural drought that is known to have spread to 24 African countries, in addition to the expanding of illiteracy and disease, which are the hallmarks of backwardness, has greatly aggravated our problems.

Apart from this, an issue of primary concern that acts as a drag on the development efforts of African countries, is the accumulation of debts. Currently, while it is known that African countries owe debts of over $153 billion, their ability to repay it is so feeble that they find it impossible to pay the interest, let alone the original debt. Since they will be forced to utilize the little foreign earnings they receive from the sale of raw materials for debt repayment, their ability to increase their development is weakened. We must realize that it isn't possible to overcome this problem unless Africa is (?united), and not through the donations we receive.

The other problem that can be looked at in the context of African economic, political, and social problems is that of refugees. It is clear that we have to make a joint effort of cooperation to rehabilitate Africans who have been displaced from their homes for many reasons. Some of the joint efforts along this line have shown good results which is encouraging.

As I explained earlier, to solve the prevailing political problems in Africa we need determination and willingness. To coordinate our development efforts we need more effort in addition to political effort. In this context, it is necessary to strengthen and coordinate organizations like the PTA [expansion unknown], ECOWAS, and the like. We have to stand together to decisively realize the Lagos plan of action and the formation of an African economic community by the year 2000.

Chad and Western Sahara are among the problems currently testing our continent's unity, and particularly the existence of our organization. I have done everything possible to find a lasting and peaceful solution to the problems according to the responsibilities invested in me by the OAU, and with purely African sentiments.

We had especially hoped that the recently attempted national reconciliation in Addis Ababa between the Chadian brothers would enable the rival factions in Chad to exhaustively discuss the problem and form a basis for a solution beneficial to the unity of Chad and its people, but because of problems which occurred during the meeting, the eagerly awaited results did not materialize. Even so, our efforts to find ways to effect an alleviation of the problem, a halt in the rekindled war, to promote peace and guarantee the country's national security continue.

As for the problem of Western Sahara, another distressing abortion has been the attempt to find a solution through the Executive Committee and according to the resolutions adopted by the 19th summit of our organization. Since this issue is still one which tests the very existence of our organization, and also results in bloodshed between the brotherly people of Africa, it is a problem requiring immediate solution. In order to find a solution to this problem, I earnestly call on each and every African country to make its expected constructive contribution.

Honorable Ministers, in line with the great responsibility bestowed on our continental organization, it is our strong hope that you will attentively examine the proposals presented by the Administration, Budget and Finance Consultative Committee, and make effective efforts for strengthening and developing our organization's activities, and pass useful resolutions.

Because some member states have not paid their annual contributions -- and at present there is an unpaid debt of more than $40 million -- this has become one of the primary factors that have weakened the activities of the organization. Regarding the Liberation Committee's special fund, the problem concerning member states' annual payment is no different.

Debts of more than $16 million have created problems in the efforts to intensify the liberation struggle, and have become a matter of concern.

Recognizing that our organization cannot be strong with such problems, nor will its achievements be satisfactory, I call on member states to pay their outstanding payments.

Finally, I assure all of you of the support of the office of [chairman] of the OAU and of the Government of Socialist Ethiopia for a successful conclusion to our meeting, and I express my best wishes for a fruitful and successful meeting.

The children of Africa will struggle for greater development and full independence. Imperialism and racism will perish. Thank you. [lengthy applause]

Little Support for Habre Requests

LD281006 Tripoli JANA in English 0844 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, Jumada al Ulla 24, Feb 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Hissein Habre and his clique received a double blow during the meetings of the 40th session of the African Foreign Ministers' Council yesterday in Addis Ababa when the council unanimously rejected his application about what he called discussing the Chadian-Libyan dispute. More painful to him, the council confirmed the organization's stand of not recognizing or giving legitimacy to renegade Habre. This double defeat came when Habre demanded to include what he called the Libyan-Chadian dispute on the agenda of the meeting of the African Foreign Ministers Council.

The council confirmed that Chad's problem is an internal issue, and that it would work towards achieving national reconciliation in that African country.

The majority of the delegations stressed that the presence of a delegation on behalf of the Habre clique is by no means a recognition from the organization to him. In this respect, the delegations of Benin, Madagascar, Angola, Congo, Mozambique, Mauritania, Algeria, Ghana, Zambia, Tanzania, and Nigeria rejected Habre's claims and confirmed that he has no legitimacy whatsoever. Thus, his application did not find support from any country which was taken by delegates participating in the session as a decisive political defeat to Habre and his supporters. The ministers confirmed that this decision is a victory for the Jamahiriyah and the progressive forces in Africa.

Chad, Sahara Dropped From Agenda

EA281905 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The 40th OAU regular ministerial session, which was opened by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Provisional Military Administrative Council and COPWE chairman, commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and current OAU chairman, continued its deliberations, approved the session's agenda, and heard the report from the organization's interim secretary-general.

The meeting, which is being attended by ministers and representatives of member states, decided after discussing the agenda,

that the problems of Chad and Western Sahara should be examined by the 20th OAU summit to be held at Conakry, and because the current OAU chairman is still following the case, it was therefore excised from the agenda, a spokesman for the meeting said.

In this respect, the agenda approved by the session, apart from touching on African economic, political, social, and cultural issues, also includes financial issues affecting the organization.

During its deliberations this morning, the session formed two committees to help the organization carry out its activities in the political, economic, cultural, and social fields, the spokesman added.

Egypt's Ghali Addresses Council

NC282142 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, 28 Feb (MENA) — Egypt has affirmed its concern to maintain the effectiveness of the OAU and its administrative apparatus. This was stated by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, at this evening's session of the African Ministerial Council, which began its meetings in the Ethiopian capital yesterday.

Dr Ghali affirmed Egypt's interest in the problems of the liquidation of colonialism, especially in Namibia, and of the elimination of racial discrimination. He also demanded guarantees for the security and stability of the African Confrontation States.

Dr Ghali spoke at length about the developments in South Africa. He declared that Egypt pays great attention to the problems of the liquidation of colonialism, especially in Namibia, apartheid, and the elimination of racial discrimination.

Dr Ghali underlined that Egypt is interested in eliminating racial discrimination in South Africa, in enabling the Namibian people to gain their independence, and in ensuring the security and stability of the African Confrontation States, whose views and stands on these developments must be taken into consideration. He welcomed the announcement by the foreign ministers of Angola and Mozambique of their intention to deliver statements in this connection.

Dr Ghali spoke about the reasons which prompted the Egyptian delegation to submit a request for adding another item to the agenda reegarding the deteriorating economic and social conditions in Africa. Dr Ghali pointed out that the peoples of Africa and the world public would not understand nor accept that more than 40 African foreign ministers could meet in Addis Ababa and not issue a statement on a vital subject that affects the very life and future of the African people.

Dr Ghali discussed the efforts being made by the UN secretary general and his attempts to mobilize governments and the world public to increase aid to Africa to enable it to surmount its economic problems.

Dr Ghali submitted an Egyptian explanatory note accompanying the request to add the new item to the agenda. He said the Egyptian delegation will submit specific proposals after the necessary consultations are held on a draft resolution being submitted to the council.

Dr Ghali spoke on the efforts which must be undertaken to implement the Lagos Declaration and work program on economic and technical integration among the African states on the regional or subregional levels. He cited the experiment of integration between Egypt and Sudan as an example that could be followed in this regard.

Dr Ghali declared that Egypt welcomes the establishment of the Economic Community of the Central African States as a first step in the history of the continent toward the establishment of an African common market, to which all Africa aspires. He said Egypt is working hard on holding consultations and extensive contacts with the east African region, where the majority of states share the Nile River basin.

In his speech, Dr Ghali welcomed the establishment of the AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY [wakalat al-anba' al-ifriqiyah] after great efforts lasting over 20 years. He also welcomed what the establishment of this agency represents in terms of creating a distinctive African media. All information that previously arrived on the continent emanated from foreign news agencies. In this connection, he affirmed Egypt's readiness to support the AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY and give it Egyptian expertise through the Egyptian news agency MENA.

Dr Ghali spoke on the problem of refugees in Africa and its terrible dimensions. He mentioned that there are currently more than 5 million refugees in Africa, a situation that is bringing destabilization and disturbances to several states. It also creates an economic and financial burden for the host countries. In this connection, he noted the importance of good preparation for the international meeting to be held in Geneva in July to discuss aid for African refugees. He also affirmed the importance of the African states attending and participating in this conference on a high level.

He also referred to the first conference on refugees that was held in 1981 and attended by Egypt, which pledged to send Egyptian doctors to the areas where the refugees resided.

Dr Ghali referred to the results of the meetings of the Coordination Committee for the Liberation of Africa, which convened this month in Tanzania. He stressed Egypt's continued political, diplomatic, and material support for the African liberation movements, both through bilateral means and the special fund of the Committee for the Liberation of Africa.

Dr Ghali discussed the importance of studying the results of the meetings of the OAU Committee for Defense held last month in Accra, Ghana. He emphasized the need to take interest in the regional security of the African Continent to confront the challenges facing it.

The Egyptian delegation's leader also discussed the question of Afro-Arab cooperation. He referred to the prevailing state of stagnation in this cooperation and to the paralysis which has befallen its organs. He declared Egypt's interest on this point on

the basis that it was among the first who called for this cooperation and that the first Afro-Arab summit was held on its territory in March 1971. Dr Ghali emphasized that it is high time to reconsider the African cooperation organs and to reactivate them.

Dr Ghali then turned to the OAU's financial and administrative affairs. He stressed Egypt's eagerness to preserve the OAU's effectiveness and administrative organ. He urged the OAU's administrative organ to seek austerity in the 1984/85 budget, saying the budget has already increased by 7 percent and that this requires a cut in expenditure, because most of the member states are facing acute economic crises. He added that the allocations must reflect the activities and moves and not salaries -- the organization's effectiveness must take absolute priority.

The Ministerial Council had resumed its activities this afternoon. Dr Butrus Ghali was the first speaker. He commented on the report submitted by the OAU's acting secretary general and commended the organization's Secretariat General for its achievements during the past few months. He particularly referred to the efforts exerted by Ethiopean leader Mengistu Haile Mariam, the OAU's current chairman, in dealing with the problems facing the organization.

Dr Ghali expressed the Egyptian delegation's appreciation of the results achieved thus far by the Ministerial Council. He partricularly concentrated on the council's achievements in tackling the economic, cooperation, and development problems, since this is the first time the political issues have not cast their shadow on vital matters of interest to the future of the peoples of Africa.

Egypt's Ghali, Mengistu Meet on OAU Sidelines

NC281427 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1318 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA) — Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam received an important message from President Husni Mubarak. The message was conveyed by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, when he was received by the Ethiopian president this afternoon.

The meeting between the Ethiopian president, who is also OAU chairman, and Dr Butrus Ghali lasted 1 hour. It was attended on the Ethiopian side by Foreign Minister Wolde Goshu [name and title as received] and on the Egyptian side by Ambassador Samir Ahmad and the head of the Foreign Ministry's African Department, Ahmad Sidq.

Dr Butrus Ghali, who heads the Egyptian delegation to the African Foreign Ministers' Council currently meeting in Addis Ababa, said he held important and fruitful talks with Ethiopian President Mengistu during the meeting.

In a statement to MENA, Dr Ghali described Egyptian-Ethiopian relations as constantly improving and developing, and based on a joint belief in the OAU principles, affiliation to Africa, and adherence to nonaligned principles.

Dr Ghali said the Ethiopian president asked him to convey his brotherly greetings and wishes to President Mubarak.

In answer to a question by MENA, Dr Ghali said consultations between Egypt and Ethiopia will be constant and continue on all levels in the coming period.

Dr Ghali also explained that his talks with the Ethiopian president also dealt with cooperation between Egypt and Africa. They also reviewed the progress of work at the African Ministerial Council, as well as other important African issues.

MENA has learned that the Ethiopian president asked Dr Ghali to convey an important oral message to President Mubarak on topics of mutual interest.

It should be recalled that this is the second time this month that the Ethiopian president received Dr Ghali. The first time was when Ghali visited Ethiopia while accompanying President Mubarak on his visit to Sudan during Mubarak's recent African tour.

Mengistu Receives Message From Angolan President

MB290610 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, has addressed a message to Mengistu Haile Mariam, OAU chairman and Ethiopian head of state. The message was delivered to President Mengistu Haile Mariam in Addis Ababa the day before yesterday by Comrade Paulo Teixeira Jorge, Angolan foreign minister, who is presently taking part at the 40th session of the OAU Council of Ministers there.

ECOWAS To Introduce Customs Documents Soon

AB281700 Lagos NAN in English 1610 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 28 (NAN) — Documents to be used for customs entries in ECOWAS countries are soon to be introduced, an official of the ECOWAS Secretariat said in Lagos today. The official told a correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that the documents were being examined at seminars organised by the ECOWAS Secretariat for member states. He said that when introduced, the measure would enhance the free movement of people, goods, and services within the sub-region.

He also said that the ECOWAS customs entry forms conformed with international standards, as they were designed according to the United Nations "layout key."

The meeting of the directors of customs and excise of member states of ECOWAS held in Lome in 1980 stressed the need for officials of ECOWAS countries to be acquainted with the customs documents in use in the community so as to make its trade liberalisation programme easy and workable.

ALGERIA

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Iran-Iraq War

LD282018 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The official Foreign Ministry spokesman made a statement today concerning the Iranian-Iraqi conflict. It says:

Algeria is following with concern and anxiety the grave developments in the conflict between fraternal Iraq and Iran. Great and important human energies are being spent uselessly and precious material resources and all the economic development and the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples are being wasted. The new dimensions that the conflict has assumed constitute an escalation that endangers the struggle in whose nucleus the Islamic world was untied within a relationship of solidarity, interest, and aspirations.

The spokesman continued: It is, therefore, regretted that this war should continue, as it is in conflict with all our basic interests and we regret that our means and forces are being used against ourselves. The time has come for dialogue to take the place of destruction and injury so that peace and accord may prevail, and we should do our utmost to find a political solution in favor of the two Iranian and Iraqi peoples and also in the interest of the entire Islamic nation.

The spokesman affirmed that this permanent desire is the one on which the attitude of Algeria and its efforts solely depend. Therefore, Algeria calls from the depth of its heart for dialogue to triumph for the sake of establishing peace and accord. The official Foreign Ministry spokesman said in conclusionthat Algeria calls from its depths for the start of genuine and frank negotiations bearing in mind that these negotiations represent the only way to find a genuine settlement.

LIBYA

Charge Refutes Jordanian Allegations on Embassy Attack

LD282347 Tripoli JANA in English 1412 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, Jumada al Ulla 24, Feb 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Jamahiriyah's charge d'affaires in Jordan held a press conference here yesterday in which he talked about the Jamahiriyah's stand toward the Jordanian decision to sever unilaterally diplomatic and political relations with Libya. He refuted Jordan's allegations saying that what happened was merely an angry reaction by Palestinian and Arab masses on the Great al Fateh soil who demonstrated outside the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli. Answering reporters, he said the ties between the Libyan and Jordanian people still existed and this issue will be referred to the masses of the basic people's congresses to take their decision, being the decisionmaking machine in the Jamahiriyah's mission in Amman have left Jordan at the instructions of the Jordan regime's authorities who alone are responsible for this conduct. A statement was distributed by the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau on the Jordanian decision to unilaterally sever ties with the Jamahiriyah.

MOROCCO

King Hassan Announces Aid to Northern Provinces

LD281317 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Casablanca, Feb 28 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco announced that 200 million dirhams will be yearly allocated to the Moroccan northern provinces to carry out projects aimed at promoting employment and at assisting farmers. The sovereign announced this here Monday, while receiving a delegation from the northern provinces of Tetouan, Nador, and Al-Hoceima, who came to beg the monarch's pardon and denounce the events that took place late January in these provinces.

King Hassan II also announced that he would visit these provinces shortly after finishing studying the dossiers of these provinces, adding that economic activities in the northern region are relatively weak and that these provinces cannot only live on tourism which lasts four to five months and which does not employ enough labor.

Earlier, King Hassan II had received the Moroccan national football team who was qualified for the Los Angeles Olympic Games following the match that opposed it Sunday in Casablanca to the Nigerian national team. [sentence as received]

Paper Reacts to Mauritanian Recognition of SDAR

LD191141 Kuwait KUNA in English 1850 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Rabat, Feb 28 (KUNA) — A pro-government Moroccan paper has denounced Mauritania's recognition of the Saharan Republic as a virtual declaration of war against Morocco and said Rabat's troops would henceforth enter Mauritanian territory in pursuit of Polisario fighters.

The article, in the United Destourian Party's mouthpiece *RISALAT AL-'UMMAH* (Message of the Nation), is the first reflection here of official anger at the recognition of the republic by Mauritanian President Khouna Ould Haydala last week.

The Moroccans, who have stalled the OAU referendum plan after initially agreeing to it, denounced the Mauritanian move as an "intervention in the internal affairs of Morocco". The paper further accused Nouakchott of "becoming directly involved in the struggle" by giving its support for Polisario a "legal character" and facilitating Polisario military operations. It attributed the Mauritanian move to pressure from neighbouring Algeria, which has long supported Polisario.

But political sources here said that the action would have little effect in practice, adding that Rabat was stepping up anti-Polisario military operations and would not be perturbed by this "extra vote in the OAU". Moroccan King Hassan is expected to make the Sahara issue the focus of visits he is planning next month to Tunisia and Libya.

SUDAN

Armed Forces Spokesman on Actions Against Outlaws

JN281808 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Feb (SUNA) — An official spokesman for the People's Armed Forces has announced that land and river communications between Kusti, in the central region, and Malakal, the capital of Upper Nile, are normal and that railway traffic between Banusah, in Kordofan region, and Waw, the capital of Bahr al-Gahzal region, are also normal. The official spokesman said that the outlaws' actions agaisnt the city of Malakal were nothing but the random firing of several shells on the city's suburbs and did not result in any injuries. He added: Our Armed Forces chased those who fired the shells on the city and annihilated them. He also asserted that complete calm prevails in the city of Malakal and that chasing the outlaws and securing river and land communications have been completed.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR Official Comments on Mauritanian Recognition

LD281855 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Everyone has been waiting for nearly 2 months — to be precise since 31 December — the deadline set, in principle, by the OAU for the referendum on Western Sahara. It finally happened yesterday, the anniversary of the foundation, 8 years ago, of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR]. Mauritania recognized the SDAR thus becoming the 27th member of the OAU to have taken the plunge. How do SDAR officials view Mauritania's decision? Here is the answer by Ould Salek, the spokesman in charge of foreign relations for the Polisario front, who was interviewed this morning.

[Begin Salek recording] I would say that this is a normal attitude, that Mauritania should recognize the SDAR, that this is a sovereign act on the part of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. It is a country from this area, this is a decision which is in conformity with the law and with the aspirations of the peoples of the area. [end recording]

[Announcer] But it has taken 5 years for such a decision to be made.

[Begin Salek recording] I think this is an attitude which (?takes account of) the development of reality and the situation. [end recording]

[Announcer] This said, the Mauritanian president, Lieutenant Colonel Khouna Ould Haydala, in an official announcement of the recognition of the SDAR by Nouakchott, called on, I quote, the spirit of sacrifice from Polisario to find, together with the brother Kingdom of Morocco, a just and lasting solution to the conflict, end quote. How do the front's officials interpret this appeal by the Mauritanian head of state? Here are Ould Salek's explanations.

[Begin Salek recording] I think that Mauritania and all African states recognize and have recognized — notably during the 19th OAU summit — the spirit of good will from the leaders of the SDAR who did their best to find a peaceful solution to the Western Saharan conflict. [end recording]

[Announcer] What does the phrase spirit of sacrifice really mean to you in concret terms?

[Begin Salek recording] I think that President Ould Haydala, in talking of a spirit of sacrifice, fully understands the scope of the decisions of the SDAR which deliberately abstained from attending the 19th summit and which is doing the same today for the Council of Ministers. [end recording]

Further Report on President's Anniversary Speech

LD282203 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Cultural, sporting, and popular parades were featured in the celebrations of the eighth anniversary of the SDAR in the liberated SDAR territories yesterday and today. The displays and demonstrations projected the Saharan people's will to self-determination, the defense of their sovereignty, and the sanctity of their liberated territory. The occasion was also distinguished by an important speech delivered by Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, the SDAR president and secretary general of the Polsario front. At the beginning of the speech he affirmed that ever since its occupation of the Western Sahara, Morocco's policy has been characterized by stubborness. This was for the purpose of gaining time. The Polisario secretary general then talked about the events that took place in Morocco in January. He explained that one of their direct causes was the unjust war that was imposed on the Saharan people. In this connection Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz noted the sympathy and the support of a large number of Moroccans who staged demonstrations supporting the Sahran people's struggle and opposing the war.

After recalling the Saharan people's victories despite the difficult international situation, which is marked by the U.S. administration's ferocious onslaught against the international national liberation movements, he warned against the danger of the return of colonialism in its new forms to Africa and the area.

The secretary general of the Polisario front talked about the SDAR's decision to temporarily and voluntarily not take part in the 40th OAU ministerial session. He declared that this constitutes another contribution by his country toward strengthening the OAU and its peace plan — a plan, he said, that we support on the basis of the full implementation of the OAU summit resolution. On the other hand, he affirmed that in view of the lack of progress in the constructive efforts to find a solution to the Western Sahara, the SDAR will not accept further sacrifices and will take part in the 20th OAU summit. The SDAR president expressed satisfaction with the international community's renewed support for the Saharan people, particularly noting revolutionary Algeria, which, he said, has never ceased to stand alongside us in our struggle for the recovery of freedom and dignity.

UGANDA

Kampala Informs ANC of Commitment to Struggle

AB281840 Dakar PANA in English 1550 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Kampala, 28 Feb (UNA/PANA) — Uganda is committed to the liberation struggle in South Africa, the Uganda minister of information and broadcasting, Dr David Anyoti told a two-man delegation of the African National Congress (ANC).

The delegation, led by Johnnie Makatani, has been in Uganda on a visit to see for themselves the developments in the country.

Dr Anyoti said that Uganda's support for the liberation struggle in South Africa went back to the 1960's, and the country's stand was well stated in the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) manifesto.

He said: In 1964 Nelson Mandela visited Uganda, and in 1971, the coup that toppled the UPC government came when Ugandan President Dr A. Milton Obote had been chosen by the Mulungushi Club to be the spokesman of member countries against the British arms deals with racist South Africa.

He added: The apartheid regime in South Africa is a common enemy to all mankind. It is a duty of all of us to fight the monster.

Dr Anyoti said that the government will therefore assist all liberation movements in propagating their cause to their people.

Mr Makatani appreciated the Ugandan Government's stand in supporting and contributing towards the liberation struggle in South Africa. He said ANC was fighting against an enemy who had limitless means to trying to derail the liberation struggle of the South African peoples. ANC is, however, committed to achieve victory in the struggle.

CAMEROON

Reportage on Conspiracy Trial Sentencing, Reaction

Ahidjo Given Death Sentence

AB281621 Paris AFP in English 1613 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Yaounde, Feb 28 (AFP) — The former president of Cameroon, Ahmadou Ahidjo, was sentenced to death in his absence here today for "plotting against the security of the state."

Gendarmarie officers Major Ibrahim Oumarou and Captain Adamou Salatou were also condemned to death.

The military tribunal's verdict, which sentenced the three men for "subversion, plotting against state security, and plotting to assassinate President Paul Biya," is harsher than the penalty asked for by the prosecutor yesterday, who demanded the death penalty for the former president and life imprisonment for the other two officers.

Mr Ahidjo, who resigned in November 1982 in favour of President Biya, left Cameroon for France last July and was considered by the government to be "on the run." Last week he was reported to be in Tunis.

The two officers pleaded guilty as charged and refused legal assistance.

Ahidjo Presentencing Statement

NC281711 Paris AFP in English 1703 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Paris, Feb 28 (AFP) — Former Cameroon President Ahmadou Ahidjo, condemned to death in his absence today by a Yaounde court for plotting against his successor, Paul Biya, called the trial a "sham" and a "masquerade unworthy of Cameroon."

In a statement issued before the sentence was pronounced, Mr Ahidjo said that he had never been officially informed by the Cameroon authorities that legal action was being taken against him.

He rejected the official Cameroonian view that he was a fugitive from justice, saying that the authorities in Yaounde had always known where to contact him.

Mr Ahidjo paid tribute to Cameroon's lawyers, saying that they had refused to participate in the trial.

Whatever the verdict, he said he had no intention of modifying his programme, which included a visit to Morocco tomorrow.

Two of Mr Ahidjo's aides were also sentenced to death at the end of the four-day trial. Paris lawyer Christian Charriere-Bournazel, who had originally been asked to represent them, said yesterday they had been put under great pressure, including "threats of torture."

Mr Ahidjo's statement today was put out by Mr Charriere Bournazel. It said he was currently in Tunis.

Ahidjo 'Indignant' Over Decision

LD282256 Paris Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Today former Cameroon President Ahmadou Ahidjo was sentenced in absentia to death by the Yaounde Military Court. Mr Ahidjo, who is currently in Tunis, has just reacted. (Ulysse Gosset) contacted him by telephone.

[Begin recording] [Ahidjo] I am ashamed for Cameroon and Africa. I hope that (?young) Cameroonians and (?young) Africans will act more responsibly in the future. That is all.

[(Gosset)] But can you tell us if this decision is important to you? Do you take account of it?

[Ahidjo] I take no account of it. Obviously, I am saddened and indignant.

[(Gosset)] You completely deny that you fled from Cameroon?

[Ahidjo] I completely deny this and deplore the [word indistinct] that Mr Biya, president of the Cameroon Republic, wrote to me after my departure [word indistinct]. I replied to him. I sent a telegram from (?Dakar) a fortnight ago. Thus I have not been fleeing, but departed with a diplomatic passport, and for the departure I have (?a visa) for entry into France.

[(Gosset)] Thus you absolutely deny that there has been a conspiracy?

[Ahidjo] I categorically deny this. [end recording]

Former President Ahidjo also pointed out that he doesn't intend to ask France for political asylum. Nevertheless, he will come to Paris soon, where he will give a press conference.

CHAD

French Secretary of State for Defense Arrives

AB281105 Paris AFP in French 0724 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 28 Feb (AFP) — The French secretary of state for defense, Jean Catel, arrived in Ndjamena on Monday for a few days visit which will enable him to inspect the disposition of [words indistinct] of Operation Manta.

In a brief statement to the press on arrival in the Chadian capital, Mr Catel said his visit was "primarily one of a political presence on the field of operation."

Jean Catel reaffirmed that Operation Manta in Chad was a mission of dissuasion and technical assistance to the Chadian National Armed Forces of Hissein Habre. He felt the French military presence in Chad effectively dissuades the "aggressor" from penetrating deeper into the country.

Official Delegation Leaves for Paris for Talks

AB281516 Paris AFP in French 1430 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 28 Feb (AFP) — A official Chadian delegation headed by Plan and Reconstruction Minister Joseph Yodeyman and including Mr Yorangar, deputy secretary general of the government; Mahamat Gibert, Mayor of Ndjamena; and Mahamat Noui, general manager of the Chadian National Airline, left Ndjamena on Tuesday afternoon for Paris.

Joseph Yodeyman recently led a delegation comprising the same personalities to Brazzaville where he delivered a message from Chadian President Hissein Habre to Congolese head of state Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

Meanwhile, French Secretary of State for Defense Jean Gatel, who arrived in Ndjamena on Monday afternoon to inspect the installations of the "Manta" operation in Chad, will be received in audience on Tuesday afternoon by President Hissein Habre, informed sources indicated in the Chadian capital.

Bardai on Jallud, Cheysson Visits to Nigeria

AB271100 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The week which has just ended was marked by diplomatic activities in Lagos on the Chadian conflict. From Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud's recent visit and the one that Claude Cheysson has just paid to the Nigerian capital, observers have the confirmation of the role that Nigeria wants to once more play to help the Chadian parties bury their hatchets.

Maj Jallud's visit to Lagos and the discussions he held with the Nigerian officials have produced some results. In the first place, the call made by the Nigerian and Libyan sides for the withdrawal of all foreign troops is clearly primarily aimed at the French and Zairian troops that are openly occupying the soil of the Chadian fatherland.

It is evident that to justify the disptach of their troops, the French and Zairians continue to refer to an imaginary Libyan Islamic legion even though the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has called for sending an OAU commission of inquiry to the field to verify this claim. The Ndjamena group rejected this several months ago. It is true that following the direct intervention by the French Air Force against the National Liberation Army's [ANL] commando groups in the north of the country, the Chadian Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] has asked the Jamahiriyah to come to its aid. But up to then, apart from its traditional material support to the Chadian revolution, Libya has never engaged its forces in the conflict on the ANL side, contrary to what the French have recently done.

[Words indistinct] direct participation of Libyan elements in order to counter the forces of the French-Zairian coalition, [words indistinct].

Another important point which comes out of the Nigerian-Libyan joint communique is that the two countries believe no faction has the right to constitute itself into a government as it is a well-known fact that the GUNT, unlike the FAN, has always existed as the product of the consensus reached on 24 January 1979 in Lagos. [Words indistinct], the FAN faction has tried to establish itself as a government, disregarding some pertinent resolutions and good sense and reason. Furthermore, a possible radical change in the political situation in Chad, resulting in the final modification of the present political realities, has never scared the GUNT and its political components. It is the Ndjamena group that is (?afraid) of the renewal.

This said, let us now discuss Claude Cheysson's visit to Lagos. At the conclusion of his discussions with his Nigerian counterpart, Ibrahim Gambari, the two sides expressed the need to send an observer and peace-keeping force to Chad. According to the French external relations minister, this will enable the establishment of some institutions including a constitutional commission. At any rate, France now seems to have realized that peace can only be restored to Chad under the auspices of the OAU. As it can be seen, it means returning to the starting point. According to the latest reports, Claude Cheysson said during a press conference that he did not understand why Hissein Habre failed to attend the Addis Ababa conference. For his part, the Nigerian foreign minister stated that the time was no longer for discussions, but for concrete action. The Nigerian foreign minister even announced that he would undertake a (?tour of the member countries of the organization).

To this effect, after the detailed discussions and tours undertaken by the GUNT delegation, on the one hand, and the visits of Maj Jallud and Claude Cheysson, on the other, the new Nigerian authorities will now undoubtedly put their silent diplomatic machinery into action in collaboration with the OAU and interested capitals with the view of bringing the Chadian parties to the conflict to a new round table. It is not the GUNT and its member factions that will make the task difficult for Nigeria, but, undoubtedly, the neocolonialist administration which has just perfected a new weapon of diversion, that is to say discussions between Chadians without any external interference. This is a shameful way of avoiding what it has always called diplomatic palaver. We do not yet know if France will react to this confirmation of a denial of its own diplomatic activities by its protege.

Bardai Claims 15 Killed in Mine Explosion

AB281125 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] In the military sector, the center-west of the country continues to be marked by renewed military activities and incursions by the combatants and commandos of the National Liberation Army [ANL]. According to reliable reports reaching the general headquarters of ANL, a heavy-duty mercedes truck belonging to the Franco-FAN enemy carrying military equipment hit a minefield prepared by the Transitional National Union Government's [GUNT] revolutionary troops between Am Timan and Mongo, resulting in the death of more than 15 FAN elements, and the complete destruction of the vehicle.

ZAIRE

Kinshasa, France Sign 4 Financial Aid Agreements

AB281330 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] France has granted aid to Zaire within the framework of the existing relations of cooperation between the two countries. Yesterday, 27 February, Citizen Lengema Dulia Yubasa Makanga, secretary of state for foreign affairs and international cooperation, and Jean Kinentz, the French ambassador to Zaire, signed four financial agreements relating to various operations. The first agreement concerns French assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and involves an amount of 1 million francs.

The second agreement relates to French technical assistance to the Zairian National Road Authority. This is the fifth installment of the assistance, and involves an expenditure of 2 million francs.

The third agreement concerns French assistance to the Zairian Civil Aviation Service. This is the second installment of this assistance, and involves an amount of 3.2 million francs.

The fourth agreement concerns the equipment of the Zoo Theater in Kinshasa, and involves an amount of 1.2 million francs. The total amount involved is 7.4 million francs.

GHANA

Accra, Canada Sign Accords Worth $15 Million

AB281810 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Ghana and Canada today signed three bilateral agreements totaling $15 million. The secretary for finance and economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, signed for Ghana and the Canadian minister for external relations, [title as heard] Mr Jean-Luc Epin, signed for his country.

The first agreement covers a grant of $5 million for the importation of fertilizer from Canada. The second is for a water utilization project. Under it, Ghana will receive a Canadian grant of $3.7 million over a period of 5 years to provide for technical assistance personnel, material, some tools, and short-term training of Ghanaian project staff for the supply of water in the Upper Region. The Canadian Government will further grant about $7 million under the Grains Development Project for 5 years.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Botchway said the agreement covers two important sectors of the economy which are agriculture and water supply. He said the fertilizer grant is a vital boost to Ghana's recovery program. Dr Botchway said it is part of the government's policy to improve the lives of the rural people with the supply of good drinking water. The secretary announced that an effective project-monitoring unit will soon be established in his ministry. The aim, he said, is to see to the implementation of projects, and to identify the bottlenecks. Dr Botchway commended the efforts of the Canadian Government, and said its assistance is a direct support to the economic program.

On his part, the Canadian minister for external relations [title as heard] observed that the establishment of the monitoring unit will be very useful. This is because it will help the two countries to know their areas of immediate concern.

NIGERIA

Border Problems With Cameroon To Be Examined

AB291020 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] The Nigerian Military Government is looking into the border problems between Nigeria and Cameroon. This was stated in Lagos yesterday by the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, while receiving a message from President Paul Biya of Cameroon.

The head of state expressed the hope that the friendly relations between Nigeria and Cameroon will be maintained.

President Paul Biya had in the message requested Gen Buhari to look into the outstanding issues of border disputes between the two countries. He noted the untiring efforts by the military administration in revamping the Nigerian economy and pledged his country's support.

The message was delivered by the Cameroonian ambassador to Nigeria, Yerima Lamine.

Reportage on Yola Religious Disturbances

Buhari To Visit Yola

AB281558 Lagos NAN in English 1554 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 28 (NAN) — The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, is expected to leave Lagos tomorrow for Yola to assess the extent of yesterday's religious disturbances, which have so far claimed about lives in Jimeta area of the Gongola capital. [sentence as received]

A State House programme released in Lagos today showed that Maj Gen Buhari would be accompanied on the visit by the inspector general of police, Mr Etim Inyang, Rear Admiral Victor Oduwaiye of the Supreme Headquarters, and other top government officials. During the visit, Maj Gen Buhari would go to the scene of the disturbances, visit the victims at the General Hospital, and pay a courtesy call on the Lamido [traditional ruler] of Adamawa.

The head of state and his entourage are expected back in Lagos later in the day.

Death Toll Reaches 102

AB290900 Lagos NAN in English 0852 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Yola, Feb 28 (NAN) — The death toll from yesterday's religious disturbances in Jimeta area of Yola has reached 102, an authoritative hospital source said today. The source told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that only three corpses had so far been identified by the public. It said that the Yola Hospital authorities were making arrangements for a mass burial of the undentified corpses because they were decomposing.

Meanwhile, the police have arrested 150 persons, including two women suspected to be followers of the "Maitatsine" sect who engaged law enforcement agents in a battle yesterday. More mobile policemen have arrived from Borno to assist containing the situation.

Meanwhile, a radio announcement has ordered all residents of the affected areas like Yelwa, Dubele, Nassraio and Demsawo Wards to vacate the areas before noon today.

Earlier today, commercial activities grounded to a halt in Jimeta following a report that some persons believed to be followers of the late "Maitatsine" were about to launch an attack on the metropolis. The stronghold of the fanatics was cordoned off by anti-riot policemen yesterday, but some of them escaped and occupied houses and shops abandoned by fleeing residents who sought refuge in police and Army barracks in the state capital. Thousands of the inhabitants passed the night yesterday in the Army barracks about six kilometers from the town.

At about 11 pm, people were seen carrying mattresses, mats, pillows, and other household materials, and trekking toward the

Army barracks, while a long queue of vehicles resulted as the soldiers conducted searches before allowing them to enter the barracks.

Life Returns to 'Normal'

AB290955 Lagos NAN in English 0935 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 28 (NAN) Life has returned to normal in Yola after yesterday's disturbances by members of the Maitatsine religious group, the police force headquarters said in a statement in Lagos today. The police said that 36 persons, three of them policemen, were injured in the disturbances. It said that 429 members of the religious group had been arrested in Yola, following operations mounted by the police in the early hours of yesterday.

The police explained that during the operations, some fanatics who had escaped, re-grouped, and caused large-scale damage to property in the state capital.

Minister Asks Public To Report Illegal Aliens

AB291055 Lagos International Service in English 0930 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] The minister of internal affairs, Brigadier Mohamed Magoro, has said that illegal aliens were allowed to move about in the state without surveillance. Brig Magoro made this known in Sokoto while inspecting the state branch of the Immigration Department at the beginning of a 3-day official visit to departments under his ministry. He said this has shown that there was no coordination between the Immigration Department and the police in the state.

Brig Magoro added that the present administration would not tolerate the idea of toying with the internal security of the nation. The minister then appealed to the public to report the presence of illegal aliens to the police.

UK High Commissioner Victim of Bandits

AB281730 Paris AFP in English 1619 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 28 (AFP) — The British mission in Nigeria has notified the External Affairs Ministry here of last Friday's incident in which High Commissioner Hamilton Whyte lost his diplomatic car to two armed bandits.

About 10 foreign diplomats are known to have had similar experiences since the beginning of this year.

The High Commission said today that Mr Whyte was in the car with three other people, including his predecessor, Sir Mervyn Brown, who received a cut on the arm from the machete-wielding bandits.

The four were said to be driving to Mr Whyte's Ikoyi residence here when their car was forced to a halt. The bandits took all their valuables before driving off in the two cars. Nigerian police were investigating the incident.

Foreign diplomats have made numerous representations to previous Nigerian Administrations over what is considered a "deteriorating security situation" here, with violent crime on the increase nationwide.

Newspaper Editor Arrested for Contempt of Court

AB290915 Lagos NAN in English 0848 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Kaduna, Feb. 28 (NAN) — A Kaduna chief magistrate, Mr Yahaya Mahmood, yesterday ordered that the editor of the *NIGERIAN STANDARD* newspaper be arrested for contempt of court. Mr Mahmood gave the order after a journalist with the Plateau Publishing Companey Ltd Jos, Mr Richard Umaru, had admitted that an article which he wrote and published in the Feb 3 edition of the newspaper was contemptuous of the judiciary.

Mr Umaru was said to have claimed in the article that Mr Mahmood had "colluded" with the police and the management of the Kaduna Textile Mills Ltd sometime in Janauary when he jailed 25 employees of the company for participating in an illegal demonstration.

Mr Umaru, however, begged for pardon, saying that he wrote the piece after reading the coverage of the case in the newspaper, adding "I was under the impression that I was merely commenting on a case already disposed of". His counsel, Mr Maigari, also pleaded for forgiveness, insisting that Mr Umaru wrote the article "in ignorance of the law".

In his response, Mr Mahmood lamented that "at this time of our development, the press was busy scandalising one public functionary or another, rather than addressing itself to the root causes of the present economic and social predicament of the nation."

The chief magistrate later ordered that Mr Umaru be released on bail on self-cognizance while he adjourned the case to April.

SIERRA LEONE

Stevens To Consider Reopening Fourah Bay College

AB281726 Paris AFP in English 1639 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Freetown, Feb 28 (AFP) — Sierra Leone President Siaka Stevens promised today that the reopening of Fourah Bay College, closed for more than a month following student disturbances, would be given "due consideration" at Thursday's Cabinet meeting.

He was speaking at a meeting with members of the College Executive who expressed thier "deep regrets" over the demonstrations of January 12, and sympathised with "all those affected by these acts of vandalism."

College Students' Union President Daniel Yamba Kamara, heading a 15-man delegation, told President Stevens that it was unfortunate the student action ended in "looting and vandalism by hooligans." He said: "It was never our intention to cause chaos. Our intention was merely to present a case and disperse peacefully. People who were not students, and with totally dif-

ferent motives, then took advantage of this to loot and harass peaceful citizens."

On behalf of the 1,650 students of the college, Mr Kamara pleaded with President Stevens to reopen the college and release two students and all school children held as a result of the [words indistinct] the ruling All People's Congress, Sierra Leone's only political party, was holding its Eighth National Delegates' Conference.

UPPER VOLTA

UN Representative's Statement on Lebanon

AB291245 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Following the statement made before the UN Security Council on 15 February 1984 by the French permanent representative at the United Nations concerning the Lebanese crisis, revolutionary Upper Volta defines its position on the Lebanese tragedy as follows:

1. The Lebanese people detest the war imposed on them by imperialism. In this context, it is necessary to support the French position which offers a chance of easing the political tension. Revolutionary Upper Volta [words indistinct] calls on the protagonists of the Lebanese situation to urgently follow the French example.

3.[as heard] Upper Volta greatly appreciates the French attitude and urges the French Government to continue to persevere on this path of wisdom and respect of peoples. Consequently, a prompt withdrawal of the French military forces in Lebanon can only honor France. The logical follow-up of such an attitude should naturally be the withdrawal of all other French expeditionary forces stationed here and there, particularly in Africa.

Such a vision of the situation, continues the press communique, would save the French people from unnecessary sacrifices, and take into consideration the right of peoples to live in peace with respect for their rights.

LESOTHO

Radio Says RSA Forms Alliance for Lesotho Election

MB281734 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The government-owned Radio South Africa today announced the formation of a political alliance that has been formed to contest the forthcoming elections in Lesotho. The alliance was recently formed in Pretoria by the South African minister of foreign affairs during a visit to his Pretoria office by representatives of a splinter opposition group in Lesotho and former members of the Lesotho Cabinet.

In the official South African announcement, the alliance, which is called the Democratic Alliance, is described as comprising several members of anticommunist groups in Lesotho. Two leading members were named, and they are Mr C.D. Molapo, the former minister of information and broadcasting who resigned in protest against the prime minister's visit to Eastern Europe, and Mr Thomas Mofolo, a Teyateyaneng-based insurance agent. Radio South Africa also reported that the alliance would strive for closer links between South Africa and Lesotho.

Two weeks ago, when the Democratic Alliance was formed by Mr Pik Botha, the delegation of splinter groups was led by the former Basotholand Congress Party member, Mr Phoka Chaolane. It is reliably learned that Mr Botha nominated Mr Chaolane for the chairmanship of the alliance. The official South African announcement has not yet given the names of the office bearers, but it is known that other members include Mr Justice Thabo Mokotso, and (A.C. Namoli).

MOZAMBIQUE

Zambian Delegation Arrives for Joint Meeting

MB281300 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The seventh session of the Mozambique-Zambia Joint Cooperation Commission officially opened this morning in Maputo. Minister of Mineral Resources Jose Carlos Lobo, is leading the Mozambique delegation, while the Zambian delegation is headed by Minister for Planning Henry Meebelo. In addition to reviewing the progress already made in various fields of cooperation, the working agenda for this session includes approving the working plan for the 1984-85 period. It was disclosed during the talks that the plan gives priority to action in the transportation and communications field.

The two delegations satisfactorily viewed the progress made in bilateral cooperation. The Zambian minister described the present state of cooperation as improving both in quality and quantity. Dr Meebelo also said regional cooperation within the context of the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference [SADCC] is not incompatible with bilateral cooperation, in the context of the joint permanent commission between the two countries. The Zambian delegation will return to Lusaka tomorrow after signing the final document of the seventh session.

GDR Envoy Presents Aid for Cyclone Victims

MB282054 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Dr Helmut Matthes, GDR ambassador to Mozambique, today gave our country 3 metric tons of soup for the victims of Cyclone Domoina and the floods. The GDR diplomat said that medical equipment for blood transfusions, agricultural tools, and foodstuffs will arrive next week as his government's donation to Mozambique. Last week, the GDR ambassador to Maputo delivered chemical products for water treatment. There are now 20 tents with a capacity to house 600 people in Maputo Harbor that will be delivered shortly. The symbolic presentation of the 3 metric tons of soup was attended by (Amos Mahandjani), the director of the Department of Prevention of and Combat Against Natural Disasters, who commented:

[Begin (Mahandjani) recording] We will deliver the products that we received to those affected. We will distribute the products to those facing problems in finding food due to the natural disaster, and we are also aware that GDR brothers and comrades, who have always fought on our side, are again fighting with us against all types of disasters. [end recording]

Sofala Leader Tours Area Retaken From Guerrillas

MB281144 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] In operations carried out in October of last year to recapture the headquarters of Maringue District in Sofala, which was temporarily occupied by the armed bandits, the Mozambique Armed Forces killed a number of bandits and captured an assortment of war equipment. During the same operations, FPLM forces released a number of peasants kidnapped by the armed bandits. This information was disclosed to Sofala leader Major General Marcelino dos Santos during his recent working visit to Maringue District. During the meeting with district organizations, Marcelino dos Santos outlined a number of actions for the reorganization of the party in the district because the situation has remained calm since the criminal action of the armed bandits was repelled.

Meanwhile it has been reported that the peasants released from the armed bandits are facing a famine because they were robbed of their property, including foodstuffs. In order to cope with this situation, the peasants are now preparing their farms for the second season crops, namely, corn, sweet potatoes, and vegetables.

NAMIBIA

U.S. Conspiracy in Namibian Settlement Alleged

MB281020 Harare Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] These days there is much talk of South Africa wanting to withdraw its troops from southern Angola so that a solution on

Namibia can be reached. In the same vein, the Reagan administration is still being pressed to solve the Namibian problem. Both racist South Africa and the United States claim to be working hard on the same issue. One is compelled to ask a few questions on the sincerity of racist South Africa and the Reagan administration as to whether they have given up their sinister plan of reaching a separated (?settlement) in southern Angola under the leadership of puppet Jonas Savimbi.

The United States and racist South Africa are ardent UNITA supporters. They are also involved, as Zionist Israel, in training UNITA bandits in Zaire and Namibia. It is also known that the bellicose Reagan has given authority to the U.S. State Department to support UNITA bandits as much as possible, but both the racist South Africa and United States know very well that a Namibian solution cannot be reached without SWAPO's participation. So, there is a conspiracy to cause dissension between internal and external leaders of our movement. This will be done in a way so that it will look as though SWAPO are killing each other. SWAPO representatives in all countries will also be eliminated in order to cause confusion among SWAPO leadership and the international community.

Recent talks between racist South Africa and the United States on Namibia are just a cover for a sinister intention of the United States on southern Africa. The so-called constructive engagement policy is designed to help the Reagan administration to win the forthcoming American presidential election. The racist South Africa, in this regard, is used by the Americans so that the Reagan administration can improve her unpopular foreign policy. The idea of bringing the United States into Namibia is aimed at attacking SWAPO refugees in training camps so as to destroy SWAPO completely. Lastly, a government will be created in Namibia based on the Multiparty Conference where puppets [word indistinct] is likely to be made head of state of this pseudoindependent Namibia. He would be the Namibian Muzorewa. This is why there are talks of abolishing the second authority. This one is a major step which will be taken by the South African racist regime and the Americans to give this ability to the puppets of the Multiparty Conference. When Botha speaks of SWAPO will [passage indistinct] which is not likely to be in terms of the UN resolutions which SWAPO has (?threatened to ignore). He knows what they have in store for the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO.

Voice of Namibia Says People Will Triumph

MB282014 Lusaka Voice of Namibia in English 1830 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The racists in Pretoria, because of their long years of isolation in their fool's paradise, seeing that whatever they can imagine and dream can turn out to be a reality in one of the good days. [sentence as heard] We are faced with racist Botha telling us that the South-West Africa Territorial Force would operate as a part of the South African Defense Force in Namibia, while at the same time, they want the world to believe that they are still serious about the UN plan for Namibia. SWAPO [word indistinct] this that the Boers are either ignorant or are suffering from a disease which causes adjustments of their minds, and they think that all the people live in such a world as they do.

SWAPO and the people of Namibia have at several times expressed to the world public opinion that our people want peace, and that the current war which the South African racists impose on our people should be ended as stipulated in the UN Resolution 435.

The racists, on the contrary, pretended that we, in SWAPO, are the ones who are responsible for the delay of the implementation of the UN plan for independence of Namibia. At one time, the racists even accused the UN secretary general of being partial towards SWAPO on these issues. The UN Resolution 435 is very clear and loud on the matters related to the military question. The South African racists are trying to bide time thinking that by making all sorts of obstacles they will in the long run defeat SWAPO and its People's Liberation Army of Namibia in order to impose a neocolonial puppet regime in Namibia and [word indistinct] the revolutionary armed struggle in South Africa itself. This is a big day dream [as heard] and a great imagination of the racists about our heroed people and humanity in general. The racists have been concentrating their biggest military aggression against the People's Republic of Angola.

They frightened the people of Angola to stop giving their hands of solidarity to the fighting people of Namibia through SWAPO, their vanguard revolutionary movement. The racists sent into Angola their tanks, armored cars, planes, helicopters, gunships, and thousands of their incendiary armaments to destroy schools, hospitals, villages, and roads under the pretext that they went to destroy the alleged SWAPO headquarters in southern Angola. SWAPO has been carrying out its military actions as planned, and won major battles against the enemy each day.

In the international arena, the racists will continue to be regarded as the aggressors in Namibia. One more point is that South Africa should know that the doors of peaceful negotiation, which SWAPO has left open in spite of continuous racist provocation, cannot be left open all the time.

There is an end to everything, and if the racists do not want to be seriously making efforts in negotiating directly with SWAPO under the auspices of the United Nations, they will now be left with one option: to continue the war as an institution [as heard] in both Namibia and South Africa. To this end, the racists must seriously have it in mind the negative [words indistinct] which will change later into positive [word indistinct] which contributed to the success of the Portuguese revolution in 1974.

For anyone who studies the situation in southern Africa from political, economic, and military points of view, comes up always with one thing which is certain: that the oppressed people's fight for the liberation of Namibia and South Africa will surely emerge victorious in the same way as the people of Angola, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe did. We are fed up with South Africa, who refuses to leave our country so that we can determine our destiny.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha on Negotiation Process With Mozambique

MB281631 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says South Africa and Mozambique are involved in a process of negotiation, as he indicated on his return from Maputo last week. Mr Botha was approached to comment on reports from Maputo that the Mozambique Cabinet had adopted unanimously a series of principles for the negotiation of a nonaggression pact with South Africa, and that the principles would soon be submitted to the South African Government. Mr Botha declined to add anything besides saying that more meetings between the two countries would take place in the near future.

Pik Botha Meets Botswana Foreign Minister

MB281728 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Continued contact between South Africa and her neighboring states was taken a step further in Cape Town today at a meeting between members of the South African Cabinet and of the Botswana Cabinet. The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the minister of commerce, industries, and tourism, Mr De Villiers, held talks with the Botswana minister of mineral resources and water, Dr G.K.T. Chiepe; the minister of external affairs, Mr A.M. Mogwe; and other senior officials. A statement issued after the talks by the South African Department of Foreign Affairs says ideas were exchanged on a variety of issues, including present economic andother developments.

Security Forces Ready To Track Down SWAPO

MB291214 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1203 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Windhoek, Feb 29, (SAPA) — As the Joint Monitoring Commission prepared to oversee withdrawal operations from tomorrow of South African forces in southern Angola, SWAPO insurgents have launched a last attempt to infilitrate SWA/Namibia, an official source said in Windhoek today.

Security forces in the territory were ready to track down and eliminate "as military elements," those insurgents who succeeded in penetrating SWA/Namibia from Angola, he added. The spokesman did not wish to be identified.

The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said earlier that about 800 SWAPO insurgents were trying to move towards the SWA/Namibian border through bush areas of southern Angola. About 200 of them were thought to have entered SWA/Namibia and "gone to ground." An official Angolan spokesman said after Mr Botha's statement that his government had no control as yet over SWAPO insurgents moving through areas in southern Angola. It was understood that part of the Lusaka accord reached this month between South Africa and Angola was that Luanda would cut off infiltration and supply routes of SWAPO insurgents heading for SWA/Namibia. The undertaking was reaffirmed at a meeting of the JMC at Cuvelai last Saturday.

The South African component of the JMC is to establish a close working relationship with the Angolan side to ensure the Lusaka agreement is carried out. "The SWAPO infiltration effort is seen as a last desperate attempt to get inside (SWA/Namibia) before the final monitoring begins tomorrow," the spokesman said. They emphasised that the security situation in SWA/Namibia would be maintained by South Africa. There were no moves to discontinue South Africa's security presence in the territory, he said.

Commentary Criticizes USSR's Silence on Talks

MB281807 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Station commentary: "The Soviet Union and Angola"]

[Text] International praise for the attempts being made towards normalizing relations between South Africa and Angola is growing by leaps and bounds. Latest reports quote the 10 members of the EEC as welcoming South Africa's security agreements with Angola, and the countries called on all concerned to seize the new opportunities for peace. In addition to the approbation of the Western world, the new initiative appears to carry with it the approval of the Frontline States. Individual states have expressed their hope that the peace initiative will succeed while the nine members of SADCC [Southern African Development Coordination Conference] indicated their group support by failing to issue the usual invitations to the ANC and SWAPO to attend their recent conference.

Amid this general spirit of goodwill and hope, the attitude of the Soviet Union is jutting out like a sore thumb. The Soviet Union, with its imperialist designs in southern Africa, has not uttered a single word of approval about recent events in the southern African subcontinent. Certainly, it has done nothing to encourage developments which the states of southern Africa obviously regard as in their interest. Following the Angolan Government's announcement that it was reinstating its sovereignty in southern Angola, and would control the movement of SWAPO forces in the area, the Soviet Union remained ominously silent.

The positive response from the Soviet Union would have been for it to agree with the Angolan Government, and because of its strong ties with SWAPO, the Soviets should have made it very clear that they disapproved of further SWAPO incursions into South-West Africa/Namibia. In the event, the Soviet Union issued no such statement, and SWAPO ignored the agreement between South Africa and Angola, and sent several hundred terrorists into South-West Africa. Reports persist that these SWAPO elements are acting under the direct orders of the Soviet Union. Another recent disturbing development is that the new Soviet ambassador in Angola, Mr Arnold Kalinin, is a hardline radical who is out to upset southern African accords and destroy the credibility of Portugal in southern Africa.

The evidence, although much of it circumstantial, appears to be strong enough for the states of southern Africa to be extremely

wary about Soviet intentions on the subcontinent. Obviously, governments of the region must ensure that their own interests are not jeopardized by the activities of a country which is not known as a stabilizing force no matter where it has operated or become involved.

Atomic Energy Official Says No Uranium Sold Abroad

MB281234 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1230 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 28, (SAPA) — South Africa is not selling enriched uranium abroad, but is building an enrichment plant for domestic needs, according to the Atomic Energy Corporation of South Africa. A spokesman said a commercial uranium enrichment plant was under construction near Valindaba.

He was reacting to a report in the British newspaper, *THE GUARDIAN*, that South Africa was selling enriched uranium to "all comers." The report claimed that this might underlie Britain's desicion to reduce its stockpile of the metal by half during the next few years. In effect, Britain would cut its present four years supply to two years by the turn of the century, the paper said.

This change in attitude towards security of supply with nodistinction being made between civil and military provision, was announced by Mr Michael Townsend, head of the British Civil Uranium Procurement Organization.

Initially, the change would entail ending a contract for supplies of uranium from the Rossing Mine in SWA/Namibia, said *THE GUARDIAN*.

The AECSA spokesman said there had been confusion in the *GUARDIAN*'s article about the sale of natural and enriched uranium.

South Africa had been a major supplier of natural uranium for several years, and although a previous statement by the corporation said the Republic was prepared to sell nuclear technology, material, and equipment to those countries which wanted it, South Africa was not in a position to sell enriched uranium.

Strydom Committee Wants Some Race Laws Scrapped

MB282020 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1900 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] A government-appointed committee wants some of the country's race laws scrapped. The Strydom Committee report into the Group Areas Act and related legislation has been released in Cape Town. It recommends that the Group Areas Act; the Separate Amenities Act; the Community Development Act; the Slums Act; and sections of the General Laws Amendment Act be scrapped and replaced by a new act called the Land Affairs Act. [Word indistinct] the committee recommends that group areas as such be removed, effectively separate residential areas with designed race groups will remain. This is because the committee recommends that existing ownership and occupation between the race groups be frozen. The committee also recommends that some trading areas be made open to all.

The government said last week it had accepted with reservations the committee's recommendations, and that it would also submit its proposed legislation to a select committe of Parliament. And the Strydom Committee says local authorities should decide who should use beaches. At the moment, beaches fall under the Separate Amenities Act, which the committee recommends be scrapped. The committee says the owner or manager of premises which fall under the Separate Amenities Act should decide who [word indistinct]. This could mean cinemas, which are presently segregated, could be made open to all. And the Ministry of Cooperation and Development said Africans will be allowed to trade in open CBD's [Central Business Districts]. The government announced last week that CBD's would be open to all for trading, as the Strydom Committee recommends. There was confusion whether the plan applied to whites, coloreds, and Indians only, while the minister of cooperation and development, Pieter Koornhof, says in a statement that Africans can trade there. But he said participation of the designated race groups would be subject to certain regulations which are yet to be outlined.

Minister Warns SACC of 'Countermeasures'

MB290739 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] The leader of the South African Council of Churches [SACC], Bishop Desmond Tutu, has challenged the government to bring charges against the SACC. Tutu was speaking at a news conference after Parliament debated the findings of the Eloff Commission of Inquiry into the SACC.

Minister of Law and Order Louis le Grange told Parliament yesterday that the government had accepted the commission's recommendation not to take steps to restrain the church council, but he warned that if the council persisted in what he called its tendency towards confrontation, the government might feel forced to use countermeasures.Tutu said the SACC would continue with its work despite government warnings.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Announces Names of Provincial Governors

MB281440 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has announced the appointment of eight provincial governors, and has unveiled proposals to involve the masses in the development of their own areas. The new governors are: Bishop Joshua Dhube, Manicaland; Comrade Benson Ndemera, Midlands; Comrade Daniel Ngwenya, Matabeleland North; Comrade Mark Dube, Matabeleland South; Comrade Dzikamayi Mavhaire, Masvingo; Comrade Rwizi Zieyenge, Mashonaland East; Comrade Joseph Kaparadza, Mashonaland Central; and Senator Mudomeni Chivende, Mashonaland West.

The governors will have ministerial status, and will be sworn in by the president, Comrade Canaan Banana, as special ministers. The governors take office on Thursday, and will be directly answerable to the prime minister through the minister of state for political affairs and provincial development coordination, Comrade Maurice Nyagumbo.

Radio Truth Cites Broadcasting Problems

MB290650 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Good morning to you all, once again. Firstly, we would like to apologize to those listeners who are having difficulties receiving Radio Truth, where before they heard us perfectly. We have already explained that we have been experiencing problems, mostly technical, with our vernacular programming. These problems have necessitated various adjustments, which in turn have meant that people who could once hear us clearly are only receiving us with difficulty. On the other hand, people who couldn't receive us before can now hear us quite clearly.

At the moment, all we can say is sorry to our old listeners, and welcome to the new. We sincerely hope these technical problems will be sorted out soon so we can return to normal broadcasting.